USA $12.75 Europe €9.75 UK £7.99 2011#5 www.newinchess.com

NEW IN CHESS

Garry Kasparov
Kirsan's War on Chess

Mr. Sabbatical
on tour (again)

Morozevich's
comeback

and much more

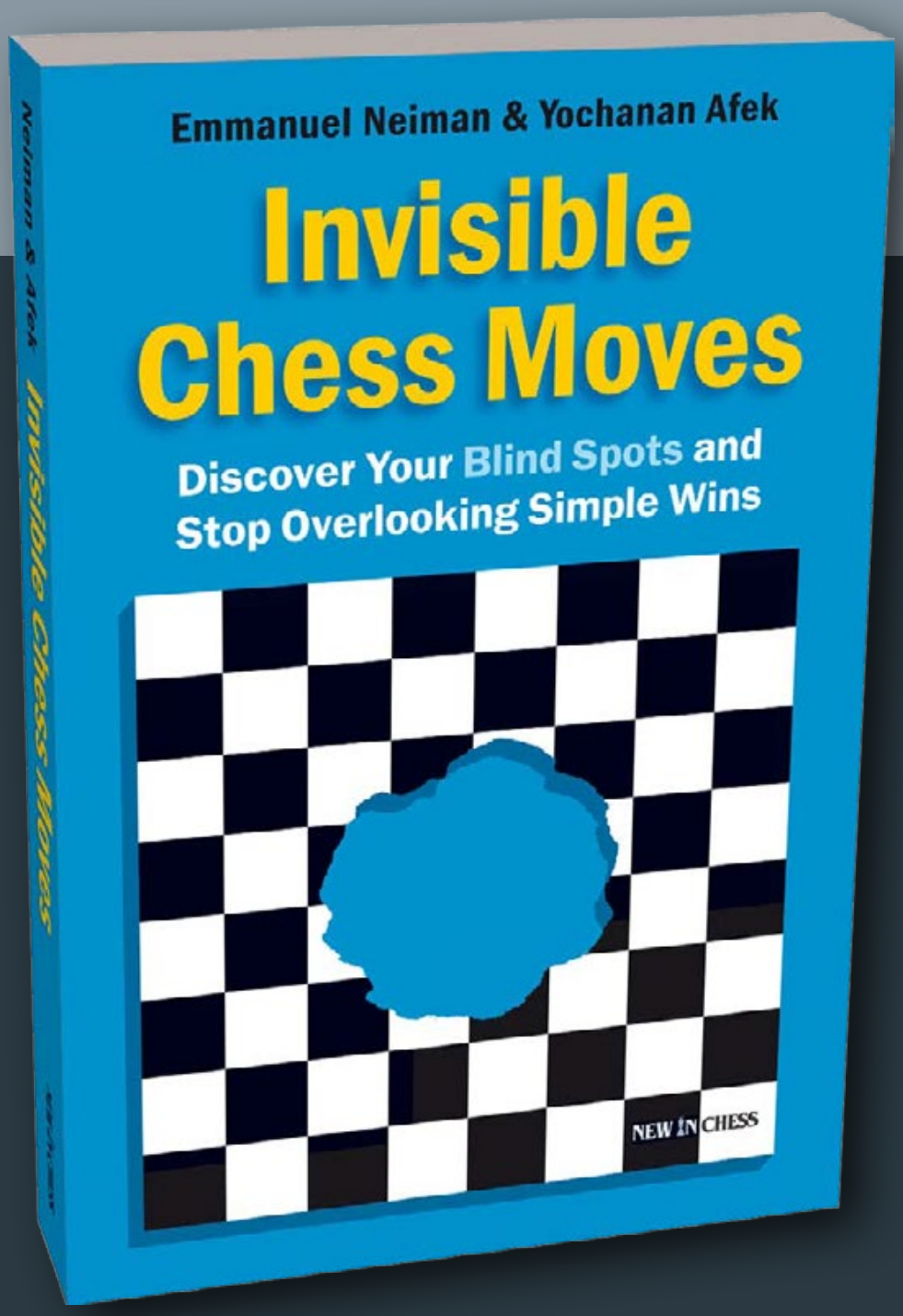
When we were Kings

Magnus Carlsen and Sergey Karjakin reign in Romania

ISBN 978-90-5691-351-9

SIGEMAN TOURNAMENT SHORT BUT SWEDISH ★ MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE ASSESSES HOUDINI AND CO. ★ THE LONG AND EVENTFUL LIFE OF OSIP BERNSTEIN

Every chess player knows: some moves are harder to see than others


Emmanuel Neiman & Yochanan Afek
Invisible Chess Moves
Discover Your Blind Spots and Stop Overlooking Simple Wins
NEW IN CHESS

NEW

Recognize the psychological, positional and geometrical factors that obscure uncomplicated wins

---

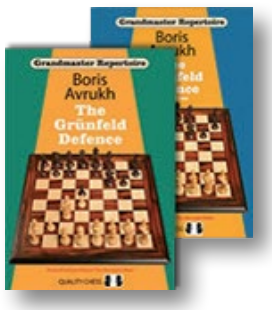
Your results will improve because your brain will stop blocking winning ideas

Paperback • 240 pages • € 19.95 • available at your local (chess)bookseller or at newinchess.com

A NEW IN CHESS PUBLICATION

BESTSELLERS

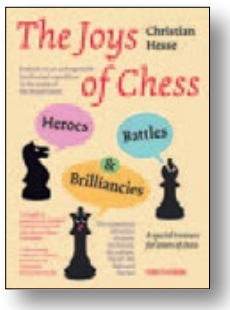
New In Chess Online Shop



1

Grandmaster Repertoire 8 & 9
The Grünfeld Defence Vol. 1 & 2
by Boris Avrukh

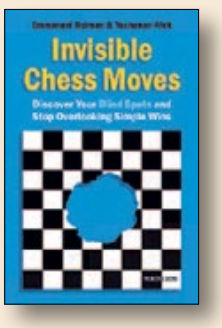
Save 10% on both volumes combined!



6

The Joys of Chess
Heroes, Battles & Brilliancies
by Christian Hesse

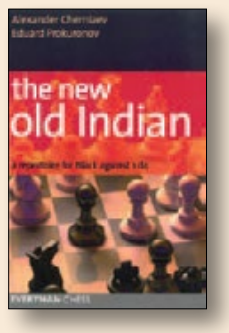
"A plentitude of quick-witted ideas" Vishy Anand



2

Invisible Chess Moves
Discover Your Blind Spots and Stop Overlooking Simple Wins
by Yochanan Afek & Emmanuel Neiman

"The authors deserve the highest praise" Luc Winants



7

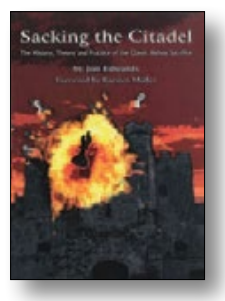
The New Old Indian
A Repertoire for Black against 1.d4
by Alexander Cherniaev & Eduard Prokuronov

A modern, aggressive approach

3

Bobby Fischer
A Portrait
by Harry Benson

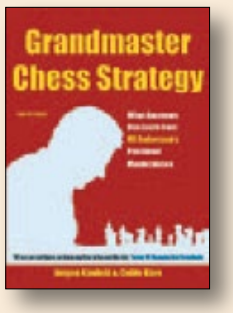
144 pages of rare, exclusive photos



8

Sacking the Citadel
The History, Theory and Practice of the Classic Bishop Sacrifice
by Jon Edwards

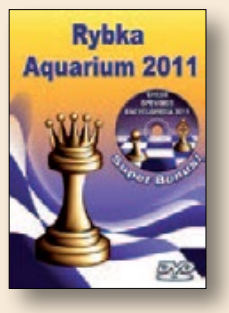
"One of the most important skills" Karsten Müller



4

Grandmaster Chess Strategy
What Amateurs Can Learn from Ulf Andersson
by Jürgen Kaufeld & Guido Kern

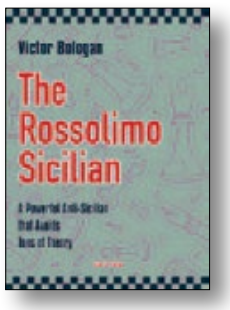
"Ulf was our cult figure!" Alex Yermolinsky



9

Rybka Aquarium 2011
by The Chess Assistant team

Bonus: Chess Openings Encyclopedia 2011



5

The Rossolimo Sicilian
A Powerful Anti-Sicilian that Avoids Tons of Theory
by Victor Bologan

"No variations labelled B1332212 here!" ChessToday

10

Saitek Competition Game Clock
Sleek, Stylish and Brightly Coloured

Just as good, only much cheaper!

... and a sweeping variety of more than 2,000 chess products at www.newinchess.com

2011 Issue 5

NEW IN CHESS

PUBLISHER: Allard Hoogland EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam, Jan Timman

6 NIC's Café

8 Your Move

10 Back to Work
After a brief paternal leave World Champion Vishy Anand returned to competitive chess with a dashing win over Alexey Shirov in Leon.

16 We Love the 90s Show
Magnus Carlsen and Sergey Karjakin, the most gifted chess players born in 1990, dominated the Kings' Tournament in the Romanian town of Medias. The Norwegian won thanks to a better tiebreak.

32 'Zurich 1953' Revisited
David Bronstein's classic on Zurich 1953 is arguably the most famous tournament book in chess literature. Mihail Marin 'rediscovered' the two volumes that Miguel Najdorf dedicated to this titanic struggle.

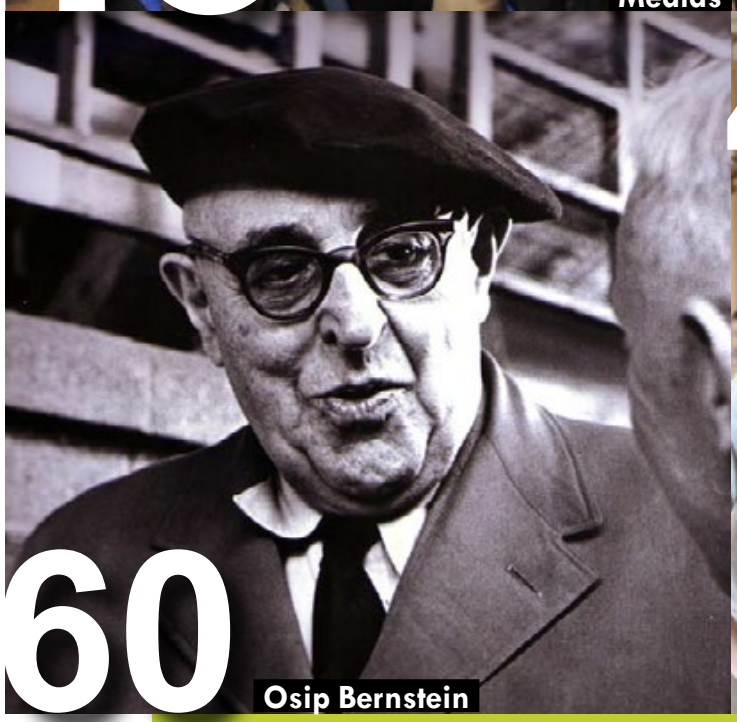
40 Short but Swedish
At the age of 19, the Sigeman tournament can look back on a happy childhood and look forward to a memorable jubilee next year.

54 In and Out of Africa
Nigel Short writes about his recent journeys. 'When playing in such countries, it is advantageous to be as phlegmatic as possible: anything can happen and probably will.'

56 Houdini and the Others
These days the world top relies on a whole new generation of engines, with names like Firebird, Stockfish or, the strongest and most popular of them all, Houdini.

16 Medias

40 Malmö


60 Osip Bernstein

44 A Family Affair

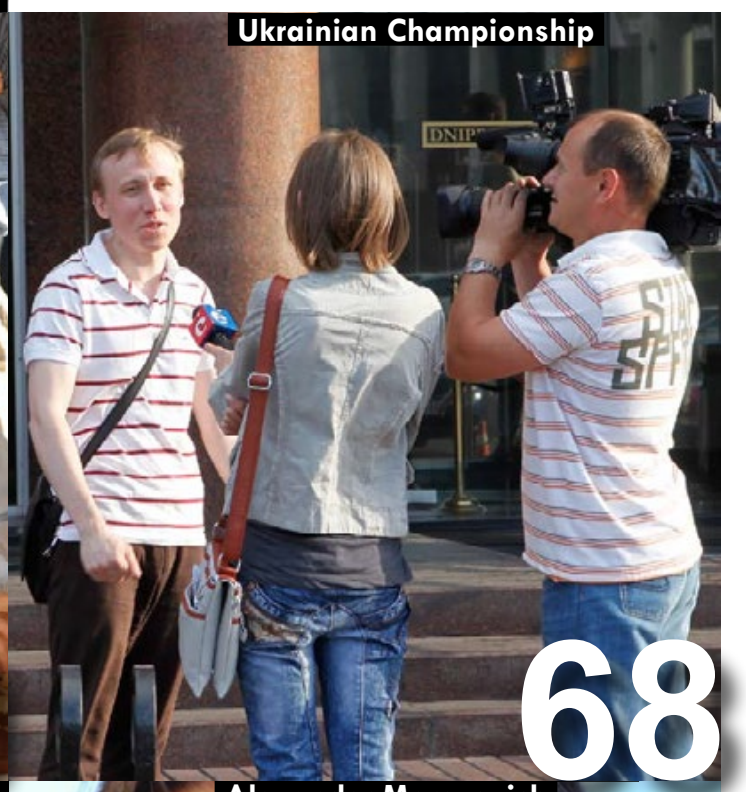
'Chess is not a simple pastime. It will never be tennis, or poker. But it can and must still be chess, with all its complexity and beauty.' – Garry Kasparov

106 Just Checking

COLOPHON p.9
SUBSCRIPTIONS p.105

Mr. Sabbatical

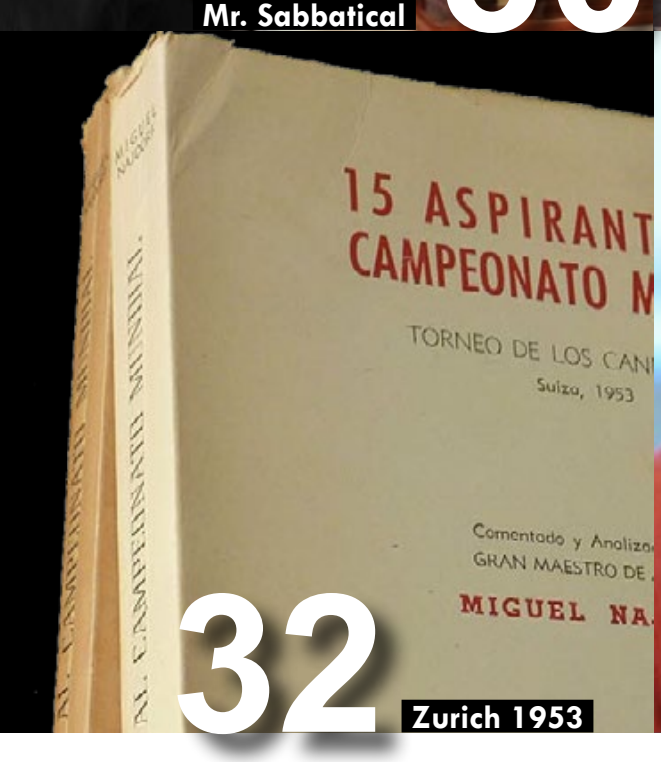
80



Ukrainian Championship

Alexander Morozevich

68



32 Zurich 1953

98

60 Osip Bernstein's Long Life
Genna Sosonko portrays an almost forgotten master who once competed with the very best in the world.

68 Chess in the Capital
For the first time in his career Ruslan Ponomariov won the Ukrainian championship.

76 The Relevance of Reverence (and Elephants)
Luke McShane reviews the chess books he read recently.

80 Mr. Sabbatical
Enjoying a well-deserved sabbatical Loek van Wely won in Las Vegas and came close to winning in Philadelphia.

88 S.O.S.: An Unusual Taimanov

92 Poetry and Gruesome Deaths
Hans Ree thoroughly enjoyed Christian Hesse's *The Joys of Chess*.

96 Hertan's Forcing Moves

98 Morozevich's Comeback
Jan Timman takes a closer look at Alexander Morozevich's return to good form at the Russian Higher League.

104 Kirsan's War On Chess
'Ilyumzhinov has been poisoning the roots of chess since he took office, a steady campaign to trivialize the game and its players', writes Garry Kasparov.

106 Just Checking
Any idea who Wesley So would like to invite for dinner?

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE
Vishy Anand, Jeroen Bosch, Olena Boytsun, Magnus Carlsen, Peter Doggers, Charles Hertan, Sergey Karjakin, Garry Kasparov, Mihail Marin, Luke McShane, Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu, Ruslan Ponomariov, Hans Ree, Nigel Short, Wesley So, Genna Sosonko, Jan Timman, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Loek van Wely

PHOTOS AND ILLUSTRATIONS
Ionut Anisca, Peter Doggers, Boris Dolmatovsky, Betsy Dynako, Calle Erlandsson, Fred Lucas, Tara MacGowran, Daniel Meirom

COVER PHOTO
Magnus Carlsen and Sergey Karjakin: Peter Doggers

NIC's Café

When We Were Kids

When we watched the amicable photo of the top-finishers in the Kings' Tournament on the cover of this issue, our thoughts automatically wandered back to 2005, when three highly promising youngsters played in the B-Group in Wijk aan Zee: Alejandro Ramirez (16), Sergey Karjakin (15) and Magnus Carlsen (14). One of them, Karjakin, even took first prize with a stunning 2736 performance. On the final night we suggested taking a photograph of the three of them with the idea of returning to that photo in 10 years' time to see what had become of them.

NEW IN CHESS

Memories of 2005: Carlsen (14), Ramirez (16) and Karjakin (15).

Only six of the 10 years we had in mind have passed, but the temptation to return to the photo prematurely is too overwhelming, as two of these kids are so prominently active these days. The third one, Ramirez, still plays chess, but no longer on a professional level. The former prodigy from Costa Rica, who now lives in the US, preferred an academic career and limited himself to the occasional tournament and games for his university team. Recently, Ramirez graduated with a Master's Degree in Video Game Design and is currently exploring several options. One is, as he told us, to get his current 2592 rating 'to a slightly more respectable level'. Whether that is really going to happen is not so sure: 'On the other hand, I recently interned at Blizzard Entertainment, the makers of World of Warcraft, and I may be able to obtain a job there.'

In the meantime, Carlsen and Karjakin have done what was more or less expected of them and perhaps even more. On the July 1 FIDE rating list, Carlsen returns to the number one spot that he first occupied on the January 2010 list. Karjakin continued his steady rise to a new personal best of 2788 and is now in fourth place as the highest ranked Russian. This is what the current Top-10 looks like: 1. Carlsen (Norway), 2821; 2. Anand (India), 2817; 3. Aronian (Armenia), 2805; 4. Karjakin (Russia), 2788; 5. Kramnik (Russia), 2781; 6. Nakamura (United States), 2770; 7. Ivanchuk (Ukraine), 2768; 8. Topalov (Bulgaria), 2768; 9. Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan), 2765; 10. Ponomariov (Ukraine), 2764.

Modern Times

The widely publicized visit of FIDE president Kirsan Ilyumzhinov to Libya's controversial leader Muammar Gaddafi did not fail to raise a fair number of questions. What were we to think of this remarkable initiative? Was it definite proof that despite his alien contacts Ilyumzhinov never knew where Osama Bin Laden was hiding, as otherwise he certainly would have visited him? Or was he only showing his army of vice-presidents that he could make 'chess' front page news if he really tried. If that was part of the plan, he certainly succeeded. Few news desks in the world spurned the story, leaving many chess lovers with an uncomfortable feeling. After all, how happy can you be if the head of the international organization that is supposed to promote your sport seems to be on the best of terms with a man against whom the International Criminal Court has just issued an arrest warrant? Russian politicians may have been confused as well, but the various reports that we saw suggest that they took a practical stance quite soon. They may have been surprised by Ilyumzhinov's first visit, but then it dawned on them that he might be the perfect person to get Gaddafi to talk and negotiate with the rebels. And so they sent him back for a second visit. Their reasoning is probably along the lines that it takes a thief to catch a thief. It is, after all, not too hard to come up with similarities between the two leaders. Don't the tall and beautiful 'chess queens' that Ilyumzhinov regularly surrounded himself with in Elista remind us of the no less stunning female guards of the Libyan leader? Don't they both like megalomaniac boasts about jaw-dropping projects that rarely materialize? And don't they both have trouble staying in touch with reality?

As for the chess they played, Ilyumzhinov acted in line with the plans of the Foundation for Modernisation of FIDE that was announced after the recent Presidential Board meeting in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates. He kept the game short and even created a new idea that the Foundation

Ilyumzhinov watches as Gaddafi tries to make a move himself.

for Modernisation may jump at. As it was unclear how much chess knowledge Gaddafi really had, Ilyumzhinov didn't hesitate to make moves for both sides. Just imagine what impact that may have on the promotion of chess! Suddenly you can claim that twice as many people on our planet 'play chess' than before!

From a press conference that the FIDE leader gave in Moscow at the office of the newly launched website

whychess.com it appeared that Ilyumzhinov is now pinning all his hopes of promoting chess on the quicker time-controls. He even said: 'To tell the truth, as FIDE president I am already tired of finding money for champions'. For convenience's sake he forgot to mention that the failure to attract sponsorship has nothing to do with the length of classical chess games, but is rather the direct result of the ineptitude of the current leadership. The duration of a contest was never a problem in tennis, golf or cricket, where the equivalent of blitz is ODI, i.e. matches that last 'only' one day!

Chess as an Art

Hardly had Boris Gelfand won the right to challenge Vishy Anand in a match for the world championship, or speculation was rife that it would be hard or close to impossible to find decent bids for this match. No doubt much to the delight and relief of the participants, this pessimism has proved unwarranted. As we now learn, it was only one day after Gelfand triumphed in the Candidates' matches in Kazan that Ilya Levitov, the President of the Russian Chess Federation, was approached by a wealthy businessman who asked him if the RCF would be prepared to bid for the match if he footed the bill. Levitov had every reason to take the offer seriously: The businessman was Andrey Filatov, a Ukrainian-born Moscow-based billionaire who co-owns a transport infrastructure company. What's more, he is an old friend of Gelfand's, with whom he studied chess at the Belarus Sports Academy in Minsk, before he decided to try his luck in business. Over the years, Filatov has shown his lasting love for chess by supporting tournaments and paying for the restoration of Alekhine's grave in Paris. The total amount he is ready to spend is around $3.5 million, which includes a $2 million prize-fund (after taxes).

Filatov is also an impassioned art-

Boris Gelfand's old friend and billionaire Andrey Filatov.

lover and collector, and he hopes to have the match in the Moscow Pushkin Museum, together with a special art exhibition.

A Change for the Better?

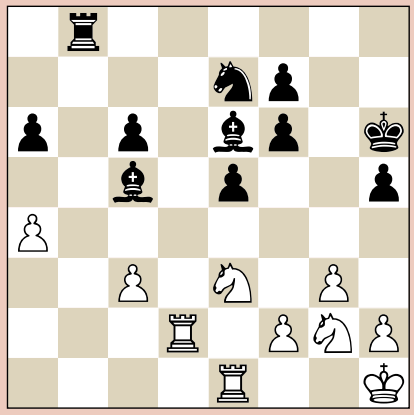
Apart from the knock-out world championship tournament in 2000, various Commonwealth Championships and regular open tournaments, the home country of World Champion Vishy Anand and women's world number 2 Humpy Koneru has shown remarkably few ambitious chess initiatives in the past years. The

Fabiano Caruana gets his trophy from AAI Chairman V.P. Agrawal.

last time Anand played a closed event in India was back in 1990.

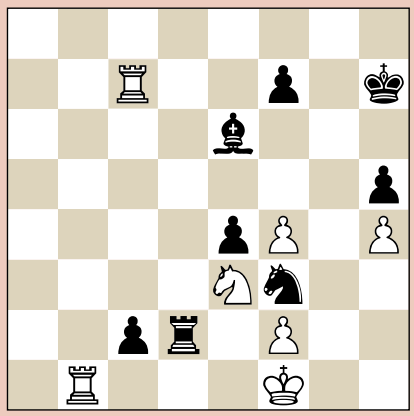
Perhaps the inaugural Airports of India Authority tournament in New Delhi heralds a change for the better. This first ever Category 17 (double) round-robin in India welcomed rising stars Caruana, Laznicka, Sasikiran, So, Negi and Women's World Champion Hou Yifan. Top-seed Caruana was in great shape during his first visit to India. The Italian GM took such a comfortable lead that a loss to Laznicka in the penultimate round didn't really jeopardize his victory.

Immediately in the first round Caruana demonstrated that he meant business when he outplayed Negi with the black pieces.



Negi-Caruana
position after 28...♖b8

Black has sufficient compensation for the exchange he sacrificed in the opening. Now he swings over the rook to the queenside for the final invasion. **29.♖ed1 ♖b3 30.♖d8 ♖xc3 31.♖a8 ♗b3 32.♖a1 ♗d4 33.♖e1 ♗xa4 34.♖xa6 ♗b3 35.♖a8 ♗e6 36.h4 ♘g6 37.♖b1 f5** White appears helpless against Black's rolling pawns. **38.♘d1 ♖c2 39.♔g1 ♖d2 40.♖a3 c5** Here comes another one. **41.♘e1 e4 42.♘g2 c4 43.♘de3 ♘e5 44.♖a6 ♘f3+ 45.♔f1 c3 46.♖c6 ♔h7 47.♖c7 ♗xe3 48.♘xe3 f4 49.gxf4 c2**



White resigned, as taking the c-pawn runs into 50...♗h3 check or mate. ■

Your Move

Inherently Lazy

After the recent controversy over the World Championship Candidates' matches in Kazan, it is clear a new format is needed to avoid draws followed by penalty shoot-outs (blitz). How about a 12-player all-play-all with a 3-1 score line (three points for a win, 1 for a draw)? This would ensure that if you drew too many games, someone else could capitalise with wins.

Chess players are inherently lazy, so this suggestion is abhorrent to them. Why willingly give up their 'rest days' – for that is what grandmaster draws are – all for the sake of a more competitive tournament? Working on the assumption of 'least possible work', the chess players would definitely prefer the 'Sofia Rules', where you are not allowed to agree draws until the arbiter lets you. In this way you can easily circumvent the rules by, as it were, kicking the ball around the park until a reasonably sterile position has been achieved.

The great Dutch grandmaster Jan Hein Donner put his finger on it in 1968 at the Clare Benedict tournament, when he said: 'Why do we play chess? Because we don't want to work!', and this was echoed in a recent article in New In Chess 2011/1 by Jan Timman. After complaining bitterly about the 3-1 scoring system which was used at the London Classic, Jan shows a player who 'plays for a win from the very start' could suffer injustice by making a mistake during the game and then only drawing or even losing.

In fact, the circle cannot be squared, and we are presented by a paradox: if you give a half point for a draw, there is an incentive to play short draws, or to play non-combative chess; if you give 1/3 of a point for a draw, all the games will be fiercely contested because the players are striving to win, and any draws which result... will be worthy draws, and thus deserving of half a point! But at least under the 3-1 system, the game will be more keenly fought, and of better quality.

I will make one concession to Jan and his invisible chess trade union. If all games are to be played at full throttle, then perhaps there should not be one game a day. Boxers may have six months between fights, at Wimbledon the male tennis matches take place on alternate days, and on the other days the women play exhibition games in attractive dresses. But if chess players want their game to become popular, they will have to abandon their 'Spanish practices'. Playing for a win from the start of the game should become the norm, not just one of a range of options.

Michael Basman
Chessington, United Kingdom

Three-Player Matches

If FIDE's questionnaire on how to run the world championship cycle had come my way, I would have recommended three-player matches. With play every day of a six-day week, each player has two days off while meeting the other two both as White and Black; if one player is leading, a draw between the other two benefits neither; the public has a game every day, and the venue is busy too; each player has to prepare against two opponents, adding interest; journalists have more to gossip about. For the same reasons the formula might also apply to the final, with two challengers facing the title holder.

John Roycroft
London, United Kingdom

Readers can send their opinions to:
NEW IN CHESS
P.O. Box 1093
1810 KB Alkmaar
The Netherlands
or e-mail: editors@newinchess.com
Letters may be edited or abridged

Chess Merit Badge

I wanted to thank you for your nice article on the Saint Louis Chess Club and my husband Rex in New In Chess 2011/4. While my Rex and I have different passions (mine is making Missouri a mecca for composition and Boy Scouts of America), I also strongly support his. After the chess club was opened, I thought that the scouts should have a Chess Merit Badge. No one seemed very encouraging about this happening, including my local boy scout council, of which I am an executive board member, and the USCF. Fortunately one of my close friends was a volunteer on the national committee for the boy scouts who approves new merit badges. I told her they needed a Chess Merit Badge, as they already had a cub scout belt loop and webelo pin for chess. She said that it was in a list of 100 possible ones, but very far down on the list. I gave her an impassioned speech on the need for a chess merit badge. Three months later the Chess Merit Badge was approved for development, and at the end of August 2011 the new merit badge booklet will be available in scout stores across the U.S. (Since I am only a back porch chess player, they declined my offer to work on the merit badge – which was a good decision.) However, the national office of the Boy Scouts of America has given me permission to 'launch' the new chess badge in conjunction with our opening of the World Chess Hall of Fame across from the Saint Louis Chess Club on September 10th, 2011. We have invited an astronaut to come to the launching (cross your fingers), who played chess in outer space and is an Eagle Scout. In the future we hope to sponsor chess tournaments for boy scouts perhaps integrating them at various camporees and jamborees.

Hopefully you will consider this exciting news for Chess in the U.S.

Jeanne Sinquefield
Saint Louis, United States

Tal vs NN

I just wanted to praise Genna Sosonko for his essay on Tal and Bronstein in New In Chess 2011/3! Great stuff! Only, please let me add that I believe the 'previously unknown game' Tal vs. NN which was preserved by Bronstein and supposedly not published before, has been analysed partly by Valeri

Beim in his excellent book *How to Calculate Chess Tactics* (published by Gambit).

But the whole game notation I haven't seen before. The Kortchnoi interview in the same issue was marvellous, too!

Gerhard Schröder
Hamburg, Germany

The Sorcerer's Assistant

In 'A Tale of Two Magicians' (New In Chess 2011/3), Genna Sosonko writes: 'Both Bronstein and Tal had obvious literary talent, but neither of them liked to write, preferring to dictate their articles and books. "I'm not a writer," Tal once let drop, "I'm a speaker. Not a loud speaker, but a speaker..." And Bronstein preferred dictating his books to his co-authors: Georgy Smolyan, Sergey Voronkov and Tom Fürstenberg.'

I don't want to detract from Bronstein's own contributions, but I'd like to point out that his co-authors (or ghost-writers such as B.S. Weinstein for the book on Zurich 1953) took on the lion's share of the work. I can't speak for the others, but I remember vividly that I sent one single copy of the 'pre-first edition 1994' of what later was going to be named *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* – at the time it was called 'David Ionovich – 70 years Bronstein' – to Bronstein, as a surprise for his 70th birthday which he was celebrating with friends in Iceland.

I expected to get a phone call or a fax from him, but I didn't hear anything. I was slightly disappointed (to put it mildly!), but in the end David more than made up for not reacting immediately by telling me that he had been literally speechless. A bigger compliment I could not have hoped for.

Of course most of the material I had found amongst David's belongings that were stored in my cellar. The game comments were brief and we later expanded them together. Also the stories at the beginning and the end of the chapter '50 Games with Comments' and remarks and diagrams in the chapters '60 Games with Diagrams' and '70 Picturesque Games' were added later. So, indeed, there was a bit of 'dictating', but to say that Bronstein 'dictated' his books would be quite a stretch and factually not true.

On the final edition of *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* we worked for more than a year. The portrait on the cover of the first edition I asked Sammy Rubinstein (son of) to paint. I came up with the title of the book, did the lay-out, made the time graphs, wrote the lecture that David gave in Maastricht in 1996 and typed every letter, figure, digit and syllable of the text.

The publisher in England didn't think it was a real chess book and didn't agree at all on the extra pages that the desired, no, demanded lay-out required. Only after he had asked for and I agreed to contribute £800 he conceded. Unfortunately, I forgot to include in the contract that I would get back that amount if the book became a success! Little did he suspect that *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* would be acclaimed 'Chess Book of the Year 1996' and the second edition again in 2009!

Tom Fürstenberg
Merksem, Belgium

Far from the Truth

I would like to react to the interview with Viktor Kortchnoi that I read in New In Chess 2011/3. We are living in a free world and everyone can say what he wants, but I believe that if you say something it should be at least close to the truth.

Mr. Kortchnoi makes two remarks about Mikhail Botvinnik and in both cases they are negative remarks. His first claim is that Botvinnik didn't play cards and was culturally poor. I can only confirm the first part of this statement. To make the second part of the statement I believe you should have had close relations with Botvinnik for many years. Mr. Kortchnoi only had some perfunctory meetings with Botvinnik during chess competitions and other events. They weren't friends. Saying that Botvinnik without chess was nothing special is merely repeating Averbakh's statement without any arguments.

Secondly, Mr. Kortchnoi wonders if Botvinnik really worked in electro-technics. He raises this question without giving any facts. I've asked the institute where Botvinnik worked for many years to provide information about his activities in this area. The summary of his work that they sent me I attach (in Russian) so that you can see that he was a recognized expert in two scientific fields: electro-technics and cybernetics.

Why do I write this reaction? Why do I spend my time on this? There are many young chess players and they may believe the words of a famous grandmaster like Mr. Kortchnoi. But these statements are very far from the truth.

In his memoirs Botvinnik wrote about the advice he received in his childhood from his uncle: if you don't know about something, you shouldn't write about it.

Igor Botvinnik
Moscow, Russia

COLOPHON

PUBLISHER: Allard Hoogland
EDITORS-IN-CHIEF:
Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam, Jan Timman
EDITORS: Peter Boel, René Olthof
ART-DIRECTION: Jan Scholtus
PRODUCTION: Joop de Groot
TRANSLATORS:
Sarah Hurst, Ken Neat, Piet Verhagen
SALES AND ADVERTISING: Casper Pieters

© No part of this magazine may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher.

NEW IN CHESS
P.O. BOX 1093
1810 KB ALKMAAR
THE NETHERLANDS

VERTRIEB: asv vertriebs gmbh
Süderstraße 77
20097 Hamburg
PHONE: 00-31-(0)72-51 27 137
FAX: 00-31-(0)72-51 58 234
E-MAIL:
SUBSCRIPTIONS: nic@newinchess.com
EDITORS: editors@newinchess.com
SALES AND ADVERTISING:
casper.pieters@newinchess.com

BANK DETAILS:
IBAN: NL41ABNA 0589126024
BIC: ABNANL2A in favour of Interchess BV, Alkmaar, The Netherlands

WWW.NEWINCHESS.COM

Back to work

On April 9, only days after Vishy Anand had returned to Chennai from a tour that had taken him to Monaco and Tashkent, his wife Aruna gave birth to a son. His name is Akhil, which means 'flawless' but also 'king'. Anand's paternal leave ended in early June, when he left for Leon for a six-game match of semi-rapid chess against Alexey Shirov (40 minutes plus 30 seconds increment per move). The World Champion arrived in high spirits and proved to be in great shape as he decisively exploited the hesitant play of his opponent: 4½-1½. Anand was most pleased with his play in the fifth game and kindly agreed to annotate this show of strength. It's a masterpiece with a few tiny scratches that don't bother us in the least. Nitpickers who do complain about these small imperfections should think how much more joy chess would give them if they followed games with their own brains instead of continuously staring at computer assessments.

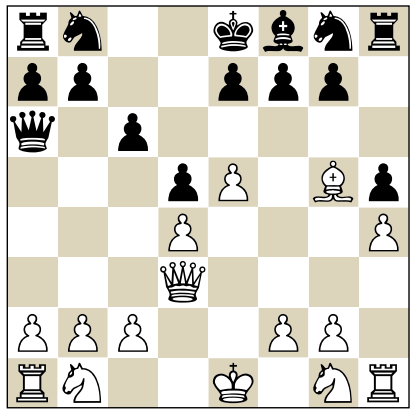
FRED LUCAS

Leon

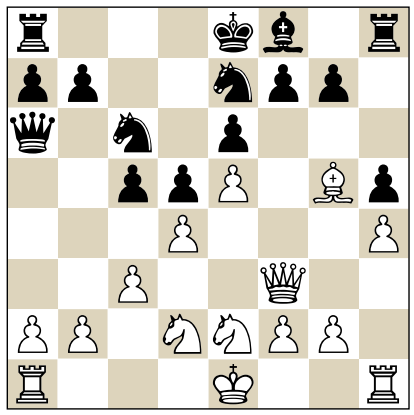
NOTES BY
Vishy Anand

CK 4.15 – B12
Alexey Shirov
Vishy Anand
Leon 2011 (5)

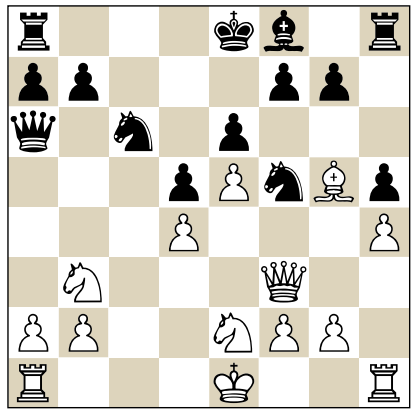
I was happy in general with my play in Leon, but in this game there were some ifs and buts. By the time this game was played I already had a 3-1 lead. I had won the second game, but especially the third game, which I won in 17 moves as Black, must have been a blow for him.
But we still had a fifth and sixth game to play, and if something was to go wrong in Game 5, it would still go down to the wire.
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♗f5 4.h4 h5 5.♗g5
I had prepared this line. This is what he played against Roiz in Lublin, just a few days before.
5...♕b6 6.♗d3 ♗xd3 7.♕xd3 ♕a6
I had looked at it together with Peter (Heine Nielsen), and he came up with this idea of putting the queen on a6 at once.
The game against Roiz saw 7...e6 8.♘d2 ♕a6, after which White could get in 9.c4.



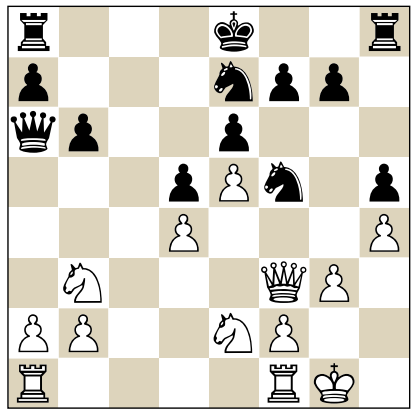
8.♕f3 There are many squares for the queen, but it's rather early to comment on all of them. If he exchanges queens, I assume that Black is fine in the ensuing endgame. Structurally speaking, White needs the queen to make use of his space. **8...e6 9.♘e2 c5 10.c3 ♘c6 11.♘d2 ♘ge7**



12.♘b3
This plan with ♘d2 and ♘b3 didn't convince me, but I can't suggest anything else. Perhaps it would have been better to wait and castle first.
12...cxd4 13.cxd4 ♘f5



I think Black is just excellent here. Over the board I couldn't see anything to be worried about.
14.0-0 ♗e7 15.♗xe7 ♘cxe7 16.g3 A plausible move, as you have to pause to protect the h4 pawn.
16...b6



At this point I feel that I already

Money Prize Tournaments

Add some spice to your games and compete for cash prizes in ICCF Money Prize Tournaments.
Enter now at: **www.iccf-webchess.com**
Join a team of thousands playing great chess at ICCF.

ICCF also offers World Championships, Olympiads, and many other Team and Individual Tournaments where you can participate from any place around the globe.

View live games of the world's best players – also free games downloads.

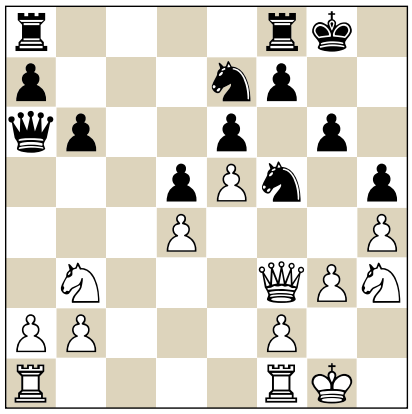
Visit us at: **www.iccf.com**

slightly prefer Black. The reason is that the knight on b3 is looking rather silly.

17.♘f4 g6 18.♘h3

This move I didn't like at all. I think he should play 18.♖fb1, and then play the other knight to e2 via c1.

18...0-0



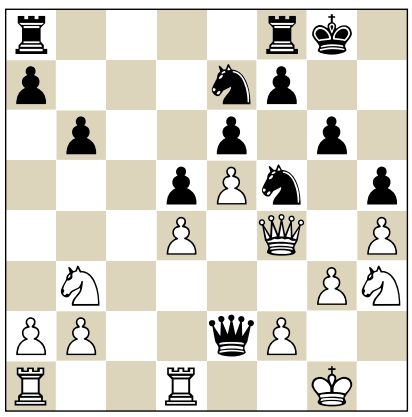
19.♕f4?

This move allows the following shot with my queen, and since Black swaps queens so soon, it doesn't leave White with a lot of time to get some play. He would like to play ♕g5 and ♘f4, but he is simply not in time.

In the line 19.g4 hxg4 20.♕xg4 White has to fight against two black knights, not even one, and Black is extremely safe after 20...♔g7. Now, if White continues in aggressive fashion with the suicidal 21.h5 (he can limit the damage somewhat with 21.♘d2 ♖h8 22.♘f3 ♕e2), he will soon be lost after 21...♖h8 22.♘f4 ♖ag8 23.♔h2 ♔f8.

19...♕e2 20.♖fd1

This is simply a mistake. Maybe he should have played 20.♕g5 ♕g4 (although I might play 20...♕xb2 21.♘f4 ♔h7, and I find it hard to believe that Black is in any real danger) 21.♕xg4 hxg4, and transpose to the game.



With a win in the fifth game Vishy Anand decided the semi-rapid match against Alexey Shirov in Leon in his favour. 'Your rarely get to play this kind of middlegame attack.'

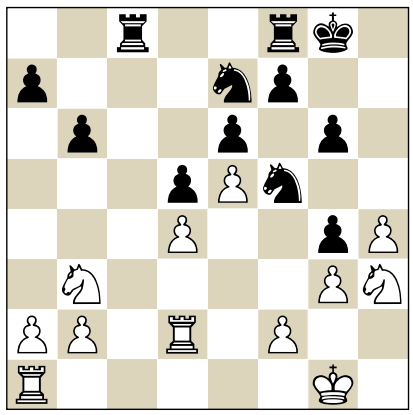
20...♖ac8?

This is a bad move and a typical case of 'which rook?'.

Better was 20...♖fc8 21.♖d2 ♕g4 22.♕xg4 hxg4 23.♘g5 ♖c4 24.f3 a5 25.fxg4 (the difference with the rook still on a8 becomes apparent after 25.♔f2 a4 26.fxg4 axb3 27.gxf5 ♖xa2, and Black wins) 25...♘h6.

But the best move here was simply 20...♕xb2 21.♕g5 (21.♖d2 ♕a3 22.♕g5 a5) 21...♕e2. I had seen that this was playable, but I was kind of too lazy to get into any sort of complications, because I thought Black had a clear edge, so why bother? But 20...♕xb2 is just winning. Black will play ...a5 and ...a4 at some point and knock all White's pieces around.

21.♖d2 ♕g4 22.♕xg4 hxg4

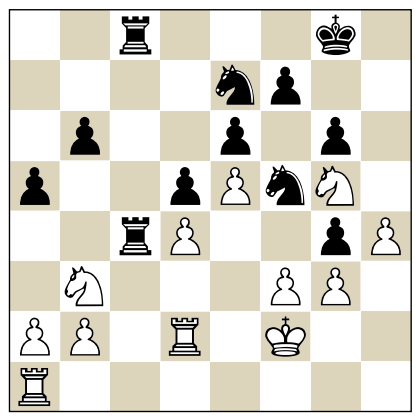


23.♘g5 This move had escaped me. I thought he'd go ♘f4-e2, but then he gets squashed very fast: ...♖c4 and ...♖fc8, just make natural moves, it's not rocket science. But Alexey started defending incredibly well.

23...a5 24.f3 ♖c4 It's important to be alert to any tactical nuance. Here 24...♘e3 would still have been better. It's slightly artificial, but it seems to win the b2 pawn: 25.♔f2 ♘c4 26.♖e2 a4 27.♘d2 ♘xb2, and Black is clearly better.

25.♔f2 In case of 25.fxg4 I have 25...♘xg3, followed by ...♘e4.

25...♖fc8

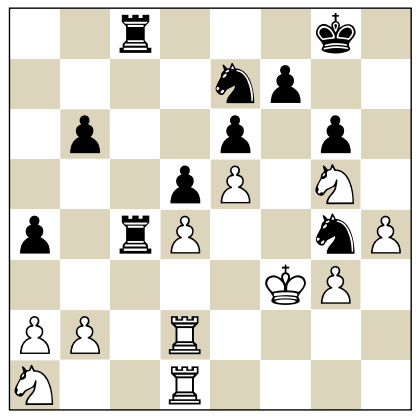


Now he has to do something against the threat of ...a4, winning his knight.

26.fxg4 ♘h6

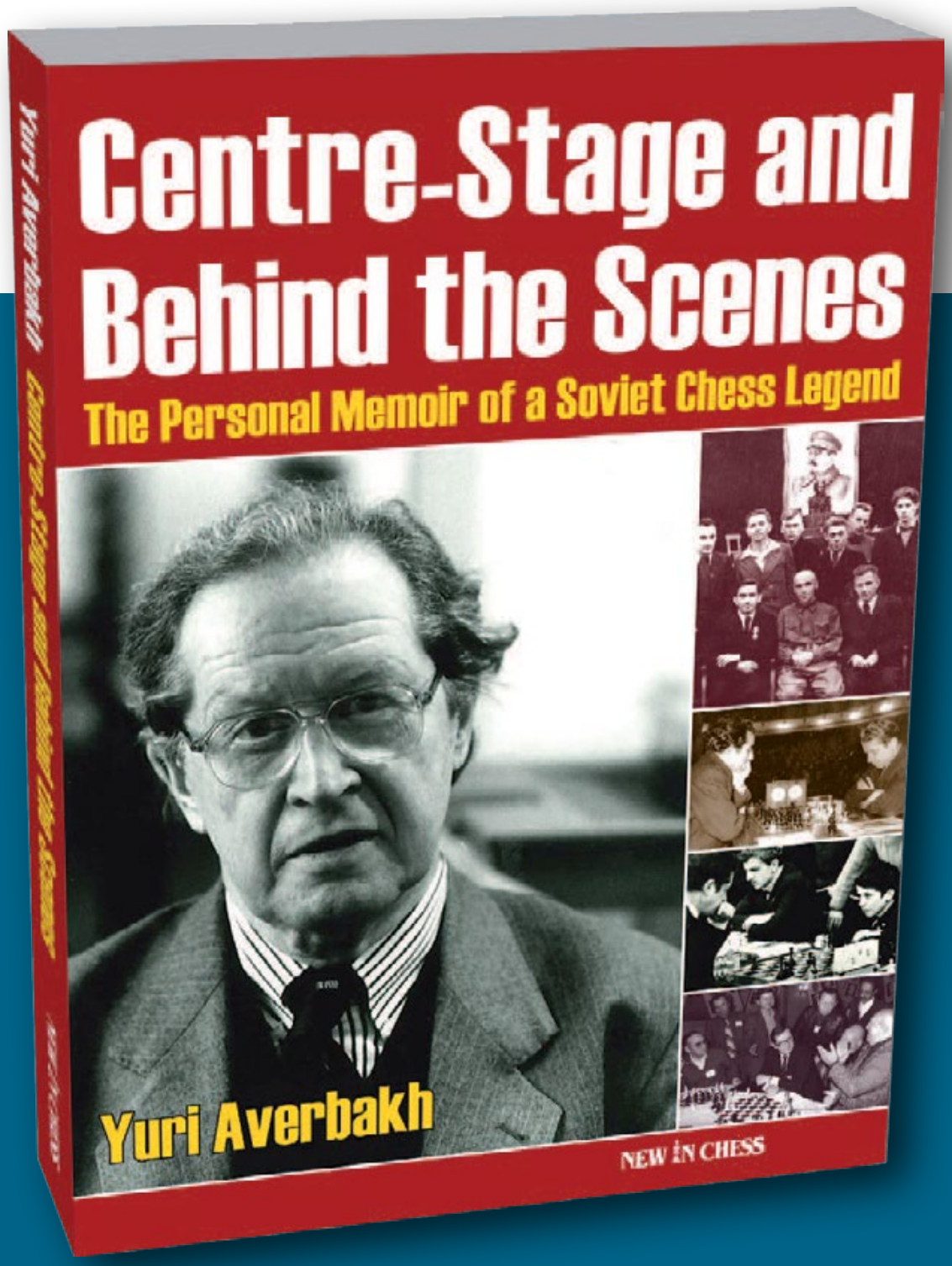
I thought this was very clever.

27.♖ad1 a4 28.♘a1 ♘xg4+ 29.♔f3 I had seen all this, but that was my mistake.



29...♘h6

A unique, revealing and at times unsettling story



NEW

Paperback • 272 pages • € 28.90 • available at your local (chess)bookseller or at newinchess.com

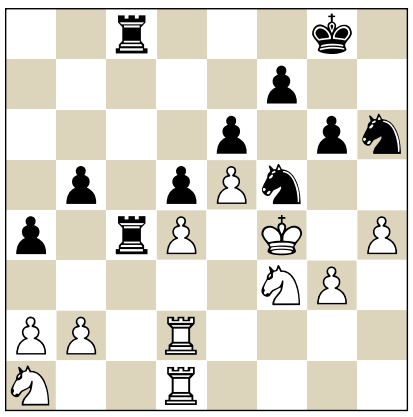
A NEW IN CHESS PUBLICATION

Obviously, this retreat wasn't my intention. In my calculations I believed that 29...♘f5 shut this all down, but when I had another look at 30.♔xg4 ♘e3+ 31.♔f3 ♘xd1 32.♖xd1 I simply didn't see a way forward. After 32...♖c1 White has 33.♔e2, and the knight comes to f3.

30.♔f4 ♘ef5 31.♘f3

Compared to the previous line, Black would be an extra pawn up and winning after 31.g4 ♘xg4 32.♔xg4 ♘e3+ 33.♔f3 ♘xd1 34.♖xd1 ♖c1 35.♔e2 ♖8c4 36.♘f3 a3 37.bxa3 ♖xd1 38.♔xd1 ♖c3.

31...b5



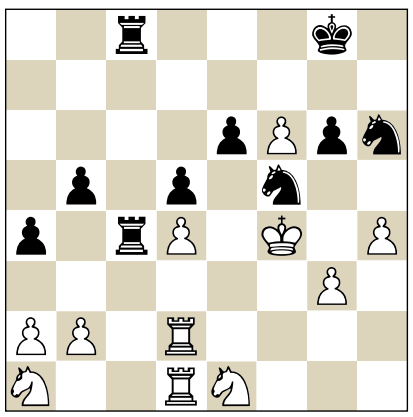
32.♘e1

The comp correctly points out that after 32.♖g1! White is doing OK. That move would have saved the game. He is going to play g4 next, and although the black knights seem fine for the moment, they are suddenly also badly placed. But after the text-move I get a chance to play something beautiful:

32...f6!

You rarely get to play this kind of middlegame attack.

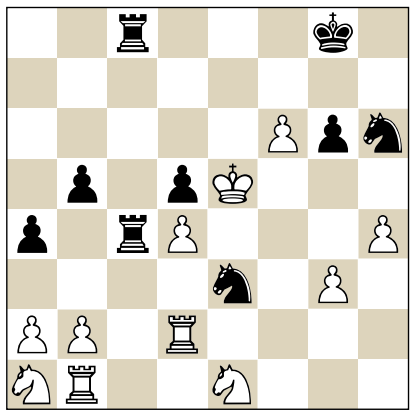
33.exf6



33...e5+! 34.♔xe5 ♘e3

This is perfectly fine. Another beautiful line is 34...♖e8+ 35.♔f4 ♖c6 36.f7+ ♘xf7 37.♘ac2 g5+! (I had not seen this check) 38.♔xf5 (or 38.♔f3 ♖f6 39.♔g2 gxh4, and White is suffering) 38...♘h6+ 39.♔xg5 ♔g7!, and wins.

35.♖b1



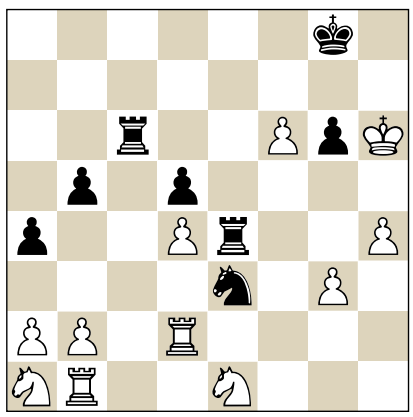
35...♖e8+

I think I should have gone 35...♘hg4+ 36.♔f4 ♖4c6 37.♔f3 ♖xf6+ 38.♔e2, because here I had seen the crushing 38...♘f1!. But I thought I was actually getting him into a mating net.

36.♔f4 ♖c6 37.♔g5 ♖e4

The more human move was 37...♔h7 38.h5 ♘f7+ 39.♔h4 ♖e4+ 40.♔h3 ♘g5+ 41.♔h2 ♘f1+, and Black wins.

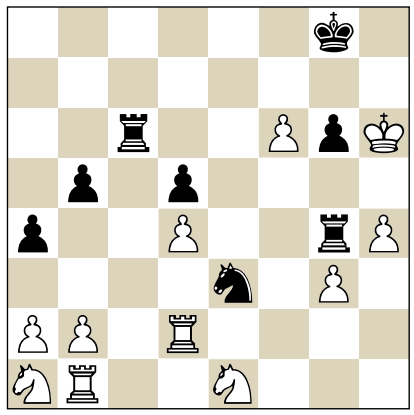
38.♔xh6



38...♖g4?

It still is easy to understand that I believed that with this move, followed by ...♘f5, I would mate him.

It's harder to see that 38...♘g4+! 39.♔xg6 ♖xf6+ 40.♔g5 ♔g7 also leads to mate.



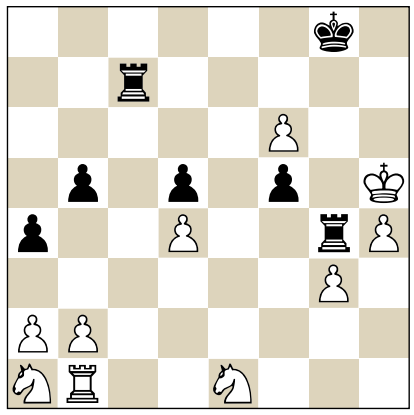
39.♖f2?

Missing his chance. I would not have been surprised by 39.f7+!, as after 39...♔xf7 I could just go back with the king and mate him anyway. But the king doesn't get the chance to go back because of 40.♔h7!, and suddenly there is nothing Black can do. The comp indicates that everything now draws. One way is 40...♔f6 and a perpetual with the rook, but that's about it.

39...♘f5+

Now everything is back under control again.

40.♖xf5 gxf5 41.♔h5 ♖c7



White resigned.

When I finished the game, I really felt that I had played an excellent game, but when I got back I found it was less so. But it was still very attractive to do a mating attack without queens. This win clinched the match for me and in general I think it was a success. Of course, Alexey could have played better, but that is always true of any match. I was happy with my play and felt comfortable all through the match. ■

We Love the '90s Show in Medias

In the 5th anniversary edition of the Kings' Tournament in Romania, not one but two kings reigned supreme. Both Magnus Carlsen and Sergey Karjakin, the most gifted chess players born in the year 1990, finished on a 'plus three' score and a shared first place, whereas the rest of the field remained stuck below 50 percent. Carlsen was declared the winner thanks to a better Sonneborn-Berger score and thus retained his title from last year. The Norwegian also reclaimed first place in the world rankings with his win. An on-the-spot report by **Peter Doggers.**

'It's like Linares 2001,' said Magnus Carlsen during the dinner after the closing ceremony. 'Garry finished on a plus-five score and the others all killed each other.' The Norwegian was comparing Kasparov's runaway victory to the remarkable final standings table of the 2011 Kings' Tournament, where Carlsen shared first place with Sergey Karjakin – both scored 6½ points out of 10 games – while the other four participants finished on a minus score.

Ten years ago, in what was also a six-player, double round-robin, Carlsen's former coach, notching up 7½/10, outshone Polgar, Leko, Shirov, Karpov and Grischuk, who all finished joint second with 4½/10. Last year Carlsen dominated the Kings' Tournament, or *Turneul Regilor* in Romania, in similar fashion, but this year he had to allow that

After their last-round game had ended in a draw, top-finishers Sergey Karjakin and Magnus Carlsen joined commentator Dorian Rogozenco in high spirits. The Norwegian was declared the winner of the Kings' Tournament while his rival became the highest-ranked Russian in the Elo-list.

other prodigy born in 1990 next to him: Sergey Karjakin.

The Norwegian 20-year-old and the Russian (already 21) clearly showed the best chess, avoiding any real mistakes in their games. This couldn't be said of the other four participants, Teimour Radjabov from Azerbaijan, Hikaru Nakamura (United States), Vasily Ivanchuk (Ukraine) and Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu (Romania), who all struggled to find their form.

With this group of six top players, the fifth edition of the Kings' Tournament was a Category-21 event (the average rating was 2758), just breaking last year's record of the strongest tournament ever held on Romanian soil. The tournament is a worthy member of the Grand Slam Chess Association, the club of elite tournaments that also comprises the Tata Steel tournament in Wijk aan Zee, the Pearl Spring tournament in Nanjing and, of course, the Grand Slam Masters Final in Bilbao (last year shared with Shanghai, this year with Sao Paulo).

In theory, the Ciudad de Linares and the MTel Tournament in Sofia are also members. Linares was cancelled this year, but the Spaniards remain hopeful that they will organize the next edition in March 2011. The MTel tournament seems to have ceased to exist. In fact, the role of its organizer, Silvio Danailov, in the Grand Slam Chess Association is quite unclear at the moment. The Bulgarian, who was elected President of the European Chess Union, seems to have other things on his mind. It is rumoured that he will be running for FIDE President in 2014.

As a consequence, the Grand Slam meeting that took place in the hotel resort in Bazna during the second half of the tournament only had people flown in from Bilbao, Nanjing and Wijk aan Zee. It was decided that if Carlsen or Nakamura – who had already qualified for the final – would finish first in Medias, the runner-up would qualify instead.

The venue of the tournament was once again the Natural Gas Documentation and Information Centre in Medias, a town with about 60,000 inhabitants, located 300 kilometres north-east of the capital Bucharest. The NGDIC is basically a museum dedicated to the history of the use of natural gas. It's only a few hundred meters from the offices of the tournament's main sponsor Romgaz. The largely state-owned company is the biggest natural gas producer in Romania. They sponsor various sports clubs, such as table tennis and basketball, and since 2007 they have been supporting chess.

Honestly speaking, the museum doesn't seem to be attracting a large number of visitors, and the tournament didn't change this – as far as spectators were concerned, the playing hall remained almost empty every day. However, as we all know, an essential part of tournament life is shifting more and more to online activities. The tournament website showed the games live, together with decent webcams (nowadays a very simple addition that more tournaments should consider), and this

PETER DOGGERS

A view of the playing room in the National Gas Documentation and Information Centre at the start of the last round of the Kings' Tournament.

attracted an average of 30,000 daily online spectators, with over 40,000 on the last day.

As in previous years, the players stayed at the Bazna Balneary Complex Expro, also owned by Romgaz. With two tennis courts, a basketball court, an outdoor and an indoor pool, the latter containing local minerals with healing power, there was enough opportunity for physical exercise after a hard day's work using the mind.

The resort created and stimulated a relaxed atmosphere among the players and the other people around. You may remember our report from last year, in which we pointed out that football played a major social part. Despite the fact that this year there were no World Cup matches to watch on TV in the evening, after the games many players could still be found in the dining room or outside on the terrace – for most of the days the weather was just wonderful. Besides, a bigger number of journalists visited the tournament, adding to the lively atmosphere in the evenings.

At the last minute, the organizers had to change the playing schedule. Originally, two rest days had been planned, but due to a change in the Romgaz President's calendar, one had to be cancelled. As a result, everyone had a return flight two days after the end of the tournament. However, the players, seconds and even Magnus's father Henrik and youngest sister Signe, who had joined him this year, happily spent another sunny day in Bazna!

Only Magnus decided to book an earlier flight, but he could still join the morning football. Like last year, two football matches between players and organizers were held in the sports complex in Medias – one on the rest day and one on the morning after the tournament had finished. It was a rare sight to see a chess player handling the ball even better than Carlsen: Karjakin's second Alexander Motylev was the top scorer on both days! However, Carlsen did score the prettiest goal; a lob over the keeper that Lionel Messi – or in Magnus's case Cristiano Ronaldo – would have been proud of.

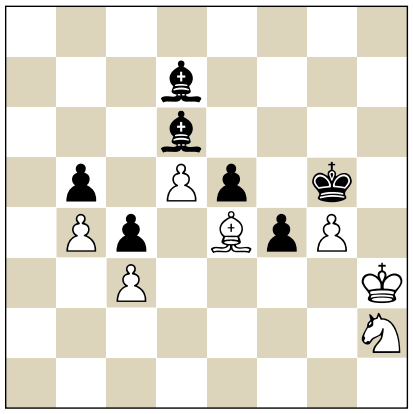
The distance between Bazna and Medias is 18 kilometres, but because of the rough and winding road, the trip usually takes about 25 minutes. It is said that Romgaz is planning to construct a new road that will connect the two towns more directly. Let's hope this will be finished before the next edition! Every day, about half an hour before the start of the round, a trail of cars would start the journey to Medias, preceded by a police car that actually used its sirens from time to time.

Before the second round there was a fair amount of panic among the organizers, as Vasily Ivanchuk was nowhere to be found. Everyone was relieved when the Ukrainian suddenly popped out of one of the cars when they arrived in Medias. Chuky, who didn't know that every player was allocated his own car, had got into the auto that took the Carlsens to the playing hall...

Before arriving, Ivanchuk had experienced some more serious travelling issues: he had planned to arrive three days before the start, but due to a cancelled flight he only arrived just after the opening ceremony. Nevertheless, in the first round the Ukrainian scored a convincing victory against Teimour Radjabov.

Magnus Carlsen also started with a win, against Hikaru Nakamura. The American followed the 'Kazan rage' with a Queen's Gambit Declined, which 'everyone seems to be playing

these days' (Carlsen). In a very complicated middlegame with opposite castling, Carlsen crashed through on the kingside. Nakamura bounced back in Round 2, but not too convincingly – he needed a blunder from his opponent.



Nakamura-Nisipeanu
Medias 2011 (2)

In a Closed Ruy Lopez, Nisipeanu had stubbornly defended a slightly worse position for 60 moves.

60...f3?

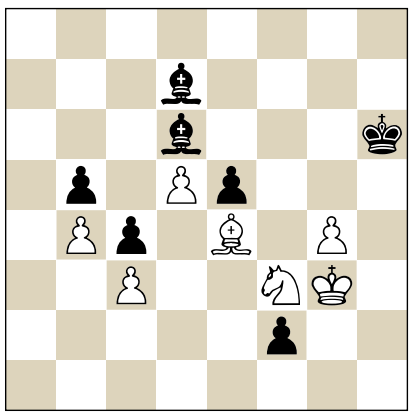
In Medias the rate of play was two hours for 40 moves, followed by one hour for 20 moves and then 15 minutes to finish the game, with 30-second increments after move 60. Nisipeanu blundered on the last move before the second time-control.

After 60...♗c7 61.♘f3+ ♔f6 62.♔h4 ♔g7 it's not clear whether White will be able to win.

61.♔g3 f2 62.♘f3+!

The first, and nasty, intermediate move. Not 62.♔xf2? ♔f4.

62...♔h6



63.g5+!

Another intermediate move before taking the pawn.

63...♔h5 64.♔xf2 ♗e8 65.♔e3 ♗f7 66.g6 ♗xg6 67.♗xg6+ ♔xg6 68.♔e4 ♔f6 69.♘d2 ♗f8 70.♘b1 ♗h6 71.♘a3 ♗c1 72.♘xb5 ♗d2 73.♘d6 ♗xc3 74.b5 ♔e7 75.♘xc4 ♗e1 76.♔xe5 ♗g3+ 77.♔d4 ♗f2+ 78.♔c3

Black resigned.

After this Nakamura failed to win another game. He obviously wasn't happy with his play, and after a quick draw with Carlsen in Round 6 the Saint Louis resident tweeted: 'Continuing to play like absolute garbage ever since Wijk aan Zee. Hopefully I will turn it around one of these days.'

Although he himself didn't feel it had anything to do with it, it's tempting to mention his fanatic support of the Vancouver Canucks ice-hockey team. Nakamura lived in Vancouver for most of 2008, and ever since that time he's been a fan of the Canucks. The team happened to be playing the most important event of the year during the first week of the Kings' Tournament: the Stanley Cup final. Because of the time zone difference, these (admittedly thrilling) hockey games were played in the middle of the Romanian nights!

Nakamura's second Kris Littlejohn had no trouble following his boss's gruelling schedule of catching a few hours sleep, waking up at 3 a.m., going for breakfast and going back to bed. As a fan of the Mavericks basketball team of his home town Dallas, Littlejohn was watching the NBA finals. His team won, Nakamura's hockey team lost.

Below you will find the game Nisipeanu-Ivanchuk from the third round annotated by the winner. This game turned out to have a devastating effect on Ivanchuk's tournament.

After his last-round game Ivanchuk declared that 'a girl on Skype' had asked him to play 1.d4.

The Ukrainian, who won the Kings' Tournament two years ago, had trouble forgetting about this loss for many rounds. This lack of concentration showed clearly in his game against Carlsen in Round 7, in which, in a difficult but not yet hopeless endgame, Ivanchuk started to play extremely fast, making it much easier for his opponent to finish the technical part of the game.

In the penultimate round Ivanchuk seemed to collapse completely – he lost in a mere 22 moves to Karjakin. Most chess fans didn't seem to worry too much, however, as Ivanchuk has had his ups and downs throughout his career. 'He'll be back', could be read on the Internet forums, and in fact Chuky recovered sooner than expected. In the last round in Medias, he won an excellent game against Nakamura.

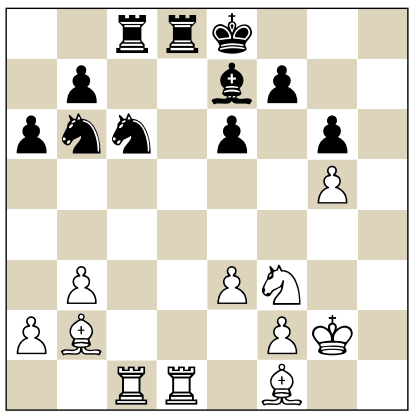
During one of the dinners, Sarunas Sulskis from Lithuania said that it wasn't easy to be the second of the Ukrainian genius. 'He has a lot of ideas, and sometimes he decides at a very late stage what he wants to play.' After his last-round game Ivanchuk declared that 'a girl on Skype' had asked him to play 1.d4, and he had followed her advice...

There's one more anecdote about Ivanchuk that begs to be told. At some point Chuky was making one of his many walks through the nearby forest. The technical director of the Grand Slam Masters Final, Juan-Carlos Fernandez, went for a walk as well. In an open field, with no other people around, the two passed each other on a small road, but Ivanchuk, probably in deep thought about some chess position, didn't notice anything. Later, when Fernandez returned to the hotel, he met Ivanchuk again in the lobby.

The Ukrainian greeted him cheerfully, as if he hadn't seen him in a long time.

Although Carlsen and Karjakin finished on the same number of points, they played quite different tournaments. Whereas Carlsen showed confidence and good form from the start, Karjakin needed some time to warm up and had worse positions in his first four games.

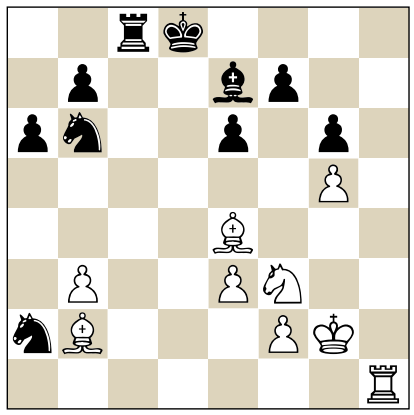
At the halfway point, Carlsen was leading with 3½/5. He was especially happy with his game against Nisipeanu, and later wrote that he had achieved 'something resembling a textbook win'.



Carlsen-Nisipeanu
Medias 2011 (5)

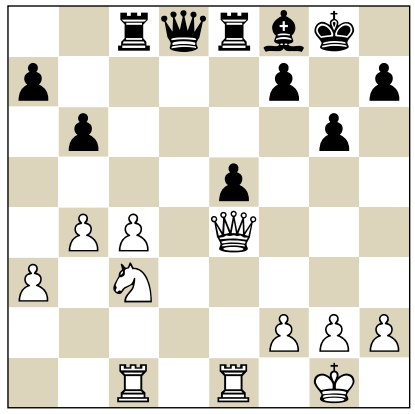
Black's position is worse than it looks. **26.♗d3!** Activating the bishop and opening the way for the rook to return to its initial square.

26...♘b4 27.♗e4 ♘xa2 28.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 28...♖xd8 29.♖h1 ♘d7 30.♖h8+ ♘f8 31.♗xb7 ♘b4 32.♗g7, and the pressure will soon become too much. **29.♖h1**



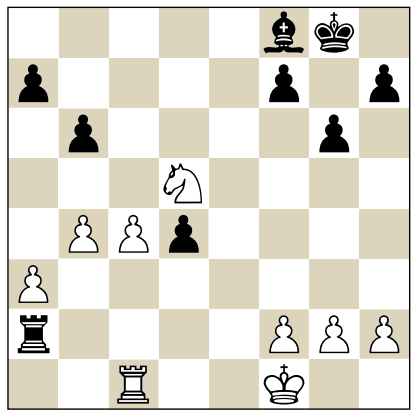
Although a pawn up, Black is lost. Just look at the deadly white bishops, and both his rook and knight will become active as well.
29...♘d5 30.♘e5 f5 31.♗xd5!
Black resigned due to 31...exd5 32.♖h8+ ♔c7 33.♖h7 ♔d8 (33...♔d6 34.♗a3+!) 34.♗d4, and White will soon win a lot of material.

However, it all could have ended differently. After nine rounds Carlsen and Karjakin were sharing the lead, and they were to face each other in the final round – always a nice *finale* for a tournament. Playing the black pieces, it was Karjakin who got the better side of the draw:

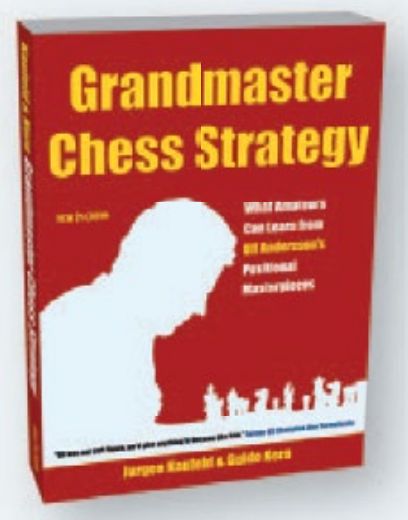


Carlsen-Karjakin
Medias 2011 (10)

The position looks equal, but after the next move it becomes clear that Black is actually slightly better.
20...♕d4! 21.♕xd4
21.♘d5 ♕xe4 22.♖xe4 f5 23.♖e2 ♔f7, and Black will double rooks on the c-file.
21...exd4 22.♖xe8 ♖xe8 23.♘d5 ♖e2 24.♔f1 ♖a2



25.♖d1



"Ulf was our cult figure, we'd give anything to become like him."
Former US Champion Alex Yermolinsky

"The choice of the games is just as good as the penetrating analysis and the didactic presentation.
KARL Magazine

"One wonders if many players, especially time-limited amateurs, might not do better to adopt Andersson's approach emphasizing overall understanding in place of memorizing lots of sharp opening theory. Strongly recommended."
IM John Donaldson

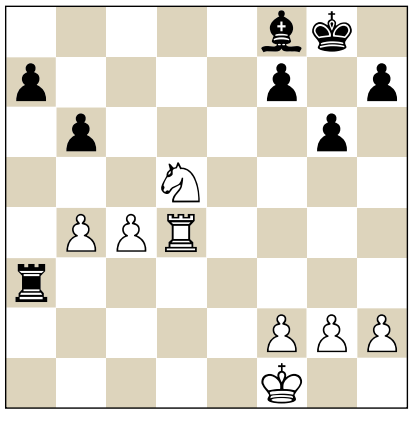
"A great book! Andersson was my idol, too."
6-times Norwegian Champion (and trainer of Magnus Carlsen) Simen Agdestein

"From Andersson, better than from anyone else, one learns 'pure' chess, without being distracted by tactical coincidences."
Harald Keilhack, Schach Magazine

Paperback • 224 pages • € 22.95 • available at your local (chess)bookseller or at newinchess.com

25.c5 bxc5 26.bxc5 d3 27.c6 (27.♘e3? ♗xc5) 27...♖c2 28.♖d1 ♖xc6 29.♖xd3 ♖c1+ 30.♔e2 ♖c2+, and an unpleasant task of defending will be awaiting White (line given by GM Dorian Rogozenco).

25...♖xa3 26.♖xd4

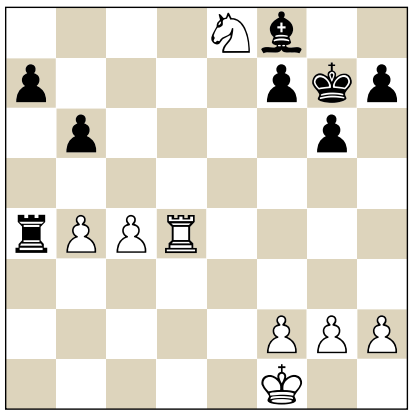


26...♖a4

After the game Karjakin said he 'blundered ♘f6+'.

Black can safely play for a win with 26...♔g7!, e.g. 27.g4 a5 28.bxa5 bxa5 29.g5 a4! 30.♘f6 ♖a1+ 31.♔e2 ♖g1 32.♘e8+ ♔h8, and White is in trouble.

27.♘f6+ ♔g7 28.♘e8+



28...♔g8

Playing for more is risky here: 28...♔h8 29.b5! (not 29.♖d7 ♗xb4, threatening ♖a1-e1+xe8) 29...♗c5 30.♖d7! ♖a1+ 31.♔e2 ♖a2+ 32.♔d3 ♖xf2 33.♖xa7, and according to Rogozenco, White's counterplay should not be underestimated: 33...♔g8 (33...♖xg2 34.♖xf7 ♖xh2 35.♘f6!, with some sort of domination) 34.♖a6 h5 35.♘c7 ♖xg2 36.♘d5 ♖xh2 37.♘xb6 h4 38.♘d7, and it's not clear who is taking more risks here...

29.♘f6+ ♔g7 30.♘e8+ ♔g8

Draw.

PETER DOGGERS

Visibly relieved, Vasily Ivanchuk commented on his win in the last round. The Ukrainian's tournament took a dramatic turn after he failed to save a complicated ending against Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu.

And so Carlsen won his first tournament in 2011 by the tiniest possible margin: 0.25 Sonneborn-Berger points. Last year he reached his highest rating ever (2826) thanks to his win in Romania; this year he regained his number one spot in the July rating list. Karjakin couldn't complain either, rising to 4th place in the world rankings and becoming Russia's number one, less than two years after he changed flags. On top of that, the Muscovite secured an invitation for the Grand Slam Masters Final, to be held in September-October in Sao Paulo and Bilbao. There he will meet Carlsen and Nakamura again, as well as Anand, Aronian and a sixth player that still has to be announced.

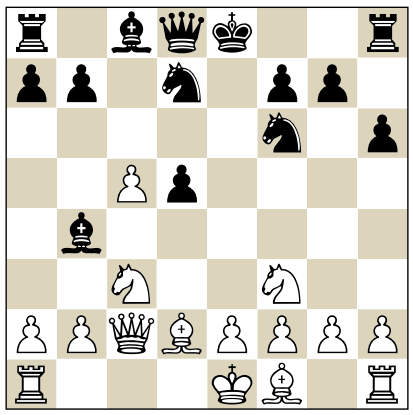
Ivanchuk's tournament has been described in detail already. He shared 5th-6th place with Nisipeanu, who had a higher 'SB' but finished last according to the second tie-break (number of wins). The Romanian GM was again the lowest seeded player but, as always, played a lot of interesting games. Teimour Radjabov, who seems to have a secured invitation together with chief arbiter Faik Gasanov (also from Azerbaijan), didn't seem to be overly inspired and a few times agreed to a draw around move 30 (earlier wasn't allowed by the rules). Radjabov himself said he was 'still tired from Kazan'.

After his splendid victory in Wijk aan Zee Nakamura disappointed in Medias. However, his many fans need not worry yet, as their hero will have plenty of opportunity to shine again this year. The American will be participating in almost all major events: in Dortmund, Bilbao, Moscow and London. However, not long after the Kings' Tournament Nakamura participated in a much bigger event: the World Series of Poker. An anonymous sponsor paid him the US$ 10,000 entrance fee. 'Let's hope I won't do too well in Vegas', Nakamura joked in Bazna, hinting at a possible clash of his chess and poker schedules if he were to reach the final round in Vegas.

NOTES BY
Magnus Carlsen

NI 27.7 – D38
Magnus Carlsen
Vasily Ivanchuk
Medias 2011 (7)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♗b4 5.♗g5 ♘bd7 6.cxd5 exd5 7.♕c2 c5 8.dxc5 h6 9.♗d2



This variation is not especially dangerous for Black, of course. However, as the game shows, White has some chances for a small but stable edge.

9...0-0 10.e3 ♗xc5 11.♖c1 ♕e7 12.♗e2 a6 13.♕d3

An important move. Black must not be allowed to play ...b5 and ...♗b7, with easy play.

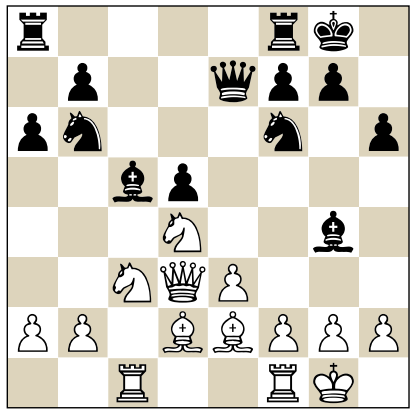
13.♕b3, with the same idea, was also possible, but I felt that the queen would be better on d3.

13...♘b6 14.0-0 ♗g4

Frankly, I didn't understand why he wanted to provoke ♘d4, as exchanges generally favour White here.

14...♗e6 was perfectly sensible.

15.♘d4

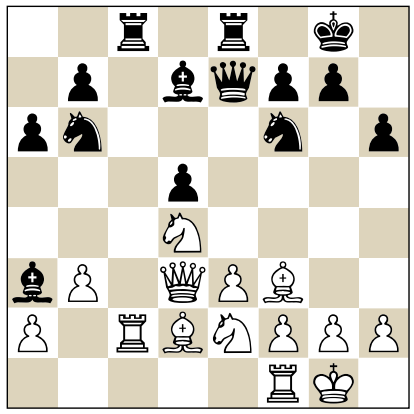


15...♗d7 I don't think it was necessary to withdraw the bishop immediately, as after 15...♖ac8 16.♗xg4 (16.b3 is probably more accurate, but should hardly trouble Black much either) 16...♘xg4 17.♘f3 ♘e5 18.♘xe5 ♕xe5 Black is fine: 19.b3 d4 20.f4 dxe3! 21.fxe5 exd2+ 22.♔h1 dxc1♕ 23.♖xc1 ♖fd8 24.♕f3 ♗d4 25.♘e2 ♖xc1+ 26.♘xc1 ♗xe5, with equality.

16.♗f3 ♖fe8 17.b3 ♗a3 17...♘e4 18.♘xd5 just loses a pawn.

18.♖c2 ♖ac8 18...♘e4 19.♘ce2 does not change too much.

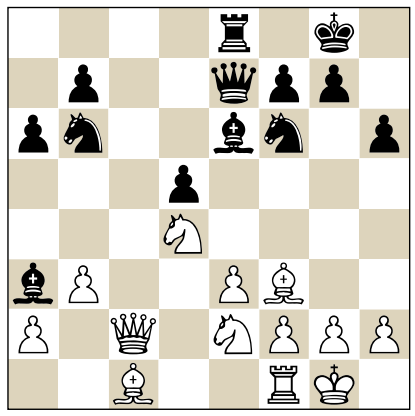
19.♘ce2



Now White is definitely better. However, it is still difficult to make any substantial progress.

19...♖xc2 20.♕xc2 ♗e6 Very sensible, as ♗a5 was an annoying threat. The text gives the knight a square on d7.

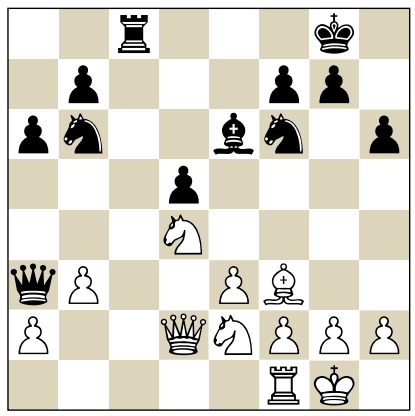
21.♗c1



21...♖c8

21...♗d6 would be desirable, but it gives White some time to regroup: 22.♗b2 ♖c8 23.♕b1 ♘bd7 24.♘f4 ♘e5 25.♗e2, with a very pleasant position.

22.♗xa3 ♕xa3 23.♕d2



23...♗g4!

An important move. After the bishops are gone, White will not have too many resources left, and the temporary lack of coordination in the black camp (the knights on b6 and g4 are loose, and even the rook might be hanging in some lines) cannot be exploited.

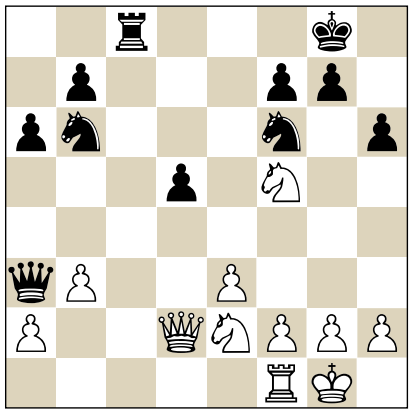
Susan Polgar Chess Daily News
Everything you need within your fingertips
Bringing you updated, timely, fair, and objective chess daily news and information from around the globe
News * Puzzles * Improvement Tips * Analysis * Videos * Trivia * and much more
www.ChessDailyNews.com

PETER DOGGERS

Having secured tournament victory, Magnus Carlsen, the old and new king of the Turneul Regilor, is besieged by the press.

23...♘bd7 24.♘f4 ♕e7 25.♖c1 ♖xc1+ 26.♕xc1 ♘e5 27.♗e2 would give White the kind of position he's aiming for.

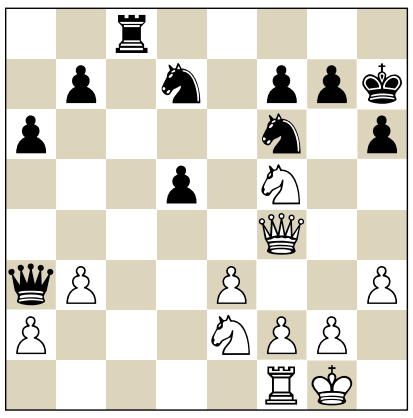
24.♗xg4 ♘xg4 25.♘f5 ♘f6



26.h3

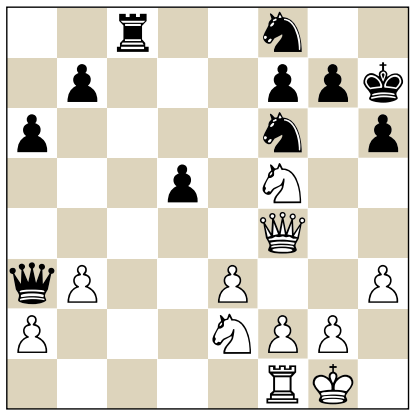
I spent a lot of time on this and the next few moves, looking for a way to increase my advantage, but everywhere Black defends easily enough.

26...♔h7 27.♕d4 ♘bd7 28.♕f4



28...♘f8

The most natural reply. 28...♕xa2 29.♘ed4 ♕a3 looks risky, but is probably also playable: 30.g4 (30.♘d6 ♖c1 31.♖xc1 ♕xc1+ 32.♔h2 ♕c7 is equal; 30.♘xg7 ♔xg7 31.♘f5+ ♔g6 32.b4 ♕c3 leads nowhere) 30...♖c1 31.♖xc1 ♕xc1+ 32.♔g2 g5 33.♕d6 ♕c5, and Black is OK.



29.♘eg3

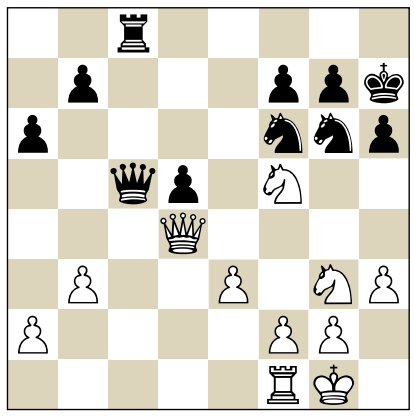
29.♘xh6? was tempting, but doesn't quite work: 29...♘e6 30.♕f5+ (30.♕h4 g5 31.♕g3 ♘e4! – 31...♔xh6 32.f4 is actually quite dangerous – 32.♕f3 ♔xh6 33.♕xf7 ♕d6 34.♘g3 ♘g7 35.♘xe4 dxe4 36.♕xb7 ♖c6, and only Black can be better) 30...♔xh6 31.g4 ♕b2 32.♘g3 g5! (32...g6 is what I calculated, and is also quite sufficient: 33.g5+ ♔g7 – 33...♘xg5 34.♕xc8 – 34.gxf6+ ♕xf6 35.♕xd5 ♖c2 is equal) 33.f4 ♖c1, and White is busted (33...gxf4 34.g5+ ♘xg5 35.♕xf4 ♖c1 36.h4 ♖xf1+ 37.♔xf1 might be enough for a draw).

29.♘ed4 ♘g6 30.♕d6 ♕xd6 31.♘xd6 ♖c7, and it's unclear what the knight is doing on d6.

29...♘g6

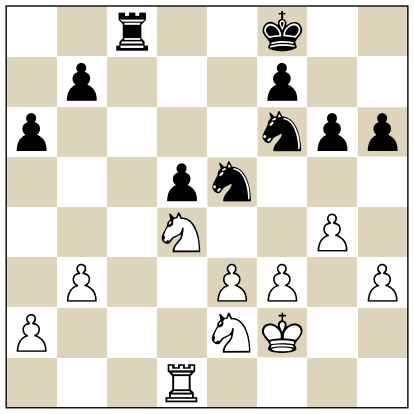
29...♘e6 was possibly even more precise. It looks weird to give the white queen such a nice post on e5 for free, but after the cool 30.♕e5 ♖c6! White has nothing: 31.♘xg7 ♘xg7, showing the point of 30...♖c6.

30.♕d4 ♕c5



The only move (the threat of ♘xg7 was very unpleasant). Now White has to allow the exchange of queens.

31.f3 ♕xd4 32.♘xd4 ♘e5 33.♖d1 g6 34.♔f2 ♔g7 35.♘ge2 ♔f8 36.g4

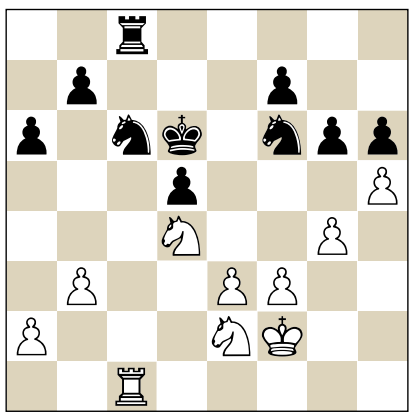


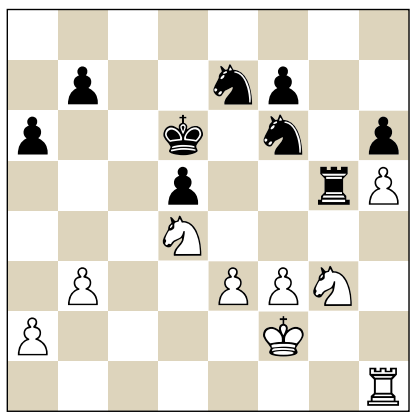
White is still slightly better here, but since the only black weakness is well defended and Black is active enough, there are no real winning chances.

36...♘c6 37.♖c1 ♔e7

37...♘e7 was quite possible. Short on time, I intended to repeat moves once and then think about whether to exchange rooks or the knight. I would probably have chosen the first option.

38.h4 ♔d6 39.h5





There is not really anything else. In order to have any chances of a win I need to create a weakness on the kingside, and here h6 is the target.

39...♘e7

Instead, 39...gxh5 40.♘f5+! (40.gxh5 ♘xh5 41.♖h1 ♘xd4 42.♘xd4 ♘g7 43.♖xh6+ ♘e6 leads to a draw) 40...♔d7 41.gxh5 ♘xh5 42.♖h1 ♘f6 43.♖xh6 would be unpleasant for Black.

40.♖h1 gxh5 41.gxh5 ♖g8

Since the queen swap, Ivanchuk had been playing more or less at blitz speed, and I was wondering whether he considered the position an easy draw, or was simply not in the mood for a painstaking defence. Anyway, White certainly has something to play for here, even though there is no doubt that Black should hold with sensible play.

42.♘g3 ♖g5

43.b4

43.f4 ♖g8 44.♔f3 ♔d7 leads nowhere. I thought it would be useful to postpone f4, as one of my knights or even the rook might want to use that square.

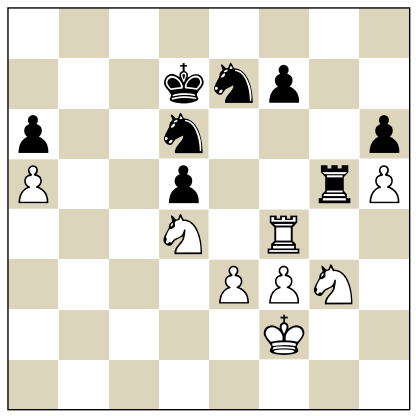
43...♔d7 44.♖h4 ♘e8 45.♖f4 ♘d6 46.a4 b6

This was not necessary. 46...♖e5 was quite OK. I don't see any serious way to play for a win here: 47.♖g4 ♘ef5!.

47.a5

Naturally, I should not let the opportunity to create a potential weakness on a6 go, even though my own pawn on a5 might also become weak in some lines.

47...bxa5 48.bxa5



48...f5?! During the game I thought this was a serious inaccuracy. There is no real need to leave this pawn as a target for both my knights. Staying put with 48...♖e5 was probably still fine.

GOTO WWW.NEWINCHESS.COM – OFFER EXPIRES AUGUST 28

CHESS ON THE BEACH

SAVE 45% ON OUR HOLIDAY PACKAGE

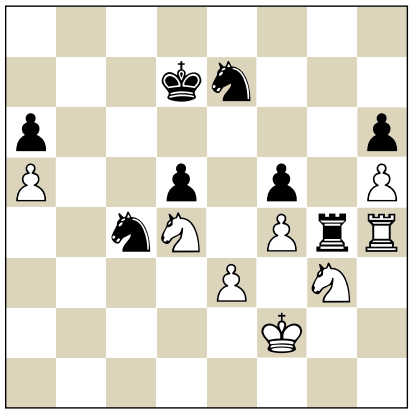
IONUT ANISCA

Magnus Carlsen (ready to take aim) and Alexander Motylev (on flashy orange shoes) excelled in the football matches.

49.♖h4 ♘c4?

49...♖g8 50.♘ge2 ♖b8 51.♖h1 ♖b2 52.♔g3 ♖a2 53.♘f4 ♖xa5 54.♘g6 gives White a serious initiative, as the king suddenly has a square on f4, and the black king might start to feel uncomfortable after a timely ♘e5.

50.f4 ♖g4



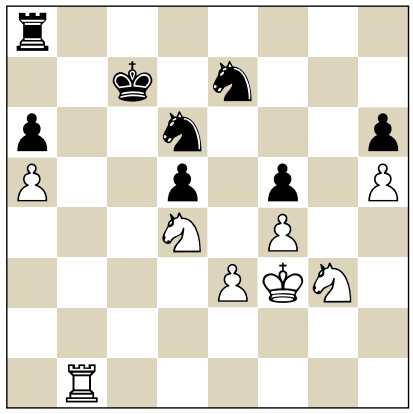
51.♖h3

An ugly move, but I didn't want to allow 51.♖h1 ♘xe3 52.♔f3 ♖g8 53.♖b1 ♘c4 which did not look clear to me at the board. Probably though, the position after 54.♖b7+ ♔d6 55.♘dxf5+ ♘xf5 56.♘xf5+ ♔c5 57.♖c7+! ♔b4 58.♘e7 still offers winning chances, but it looked really messy.

51...♘d6 52.♖h1 ♖g8

52...♘e4+ 53.♘xe4 dxe4 54.♖b1 just helps White, who dominates.

53.♖b1 ♖a8 54.♔f3 ♔c7



55.♘e6+

Once again I was a little short of time and wanted to repeat moves before going for ♖b6.

55.♖b6 wins, as the following instructive variation shows: 55...♔d7 (or 55...♘ec8 56.♘e6+ ♔d7 57.♘c5+ ♔c7 58.♖xa6 ♖b8 59.♘e2 and wins) 56.♘b3 ♔c7 57.♘c5 ♘c6 58.♘xa6+ ♔d7 59.♘c5+ ♔c7 60.♘e6+ ♔d7 61.a6! ♔xe6 62.♖xc6 ♔d7 63.♖c5 ♖xa6 64.♘e2!, and with ♘d4 and ♖xd5 to come, White should win.

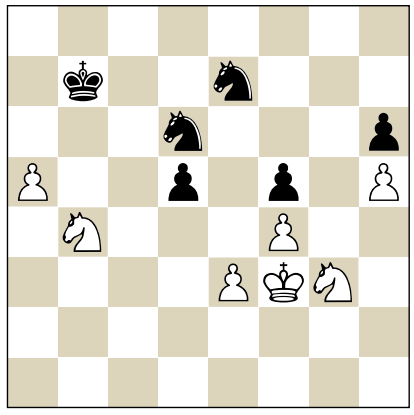
55...♔c8

I was a little upset that I allowed him this extra option, but White is still winning.

56.♘c5 ♖b8

56...♘c6 57.♖b6 ♔c7 would transpose to the variations after 55.♖b6, and 56...♘c4 57.♖b7 loses trivially.

57.♖xb8+ ♔xb8 58.♘xa6+ ♔b7 59.♘b4

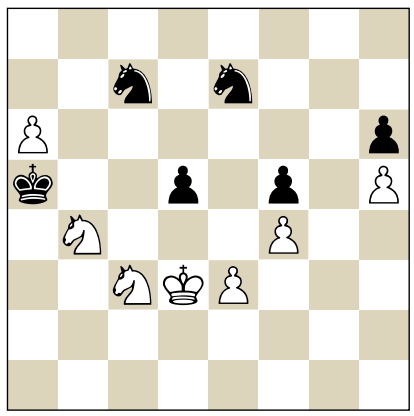


White is winning here, as Black doesn't have enough time to gobble up the a-pawn.

59...♘c4 60.a6+ ♔b6 61.♔e2 ♘d6 62.♔d3 ♘b5 63.♘e2 ♔a5

Or 63...♘c7 64.♘d4 ♘xa6 65.♘xa6 ♔xa6 66.♘e2 with ♔d4 and an easy win to come.

64.♘c3 ♘c7



65.♘bxd5!

A nice finishing touch. The king invasion is utterly decisive, even a knight down!

65...♘exd5 66.♘xd5 ♘xd5 67.a7 ♘c7 68.♔d4 ♔b6 69.♔e5 ♔xa7 70.♔xf5 ♘d5 71.♔g6 ♘xe3 72.♔xh6

Black is several tempi short here, so he resigned.

I am happy with the way I conducted this endgame, although some of Ivanchuk's decisions, especially his time management, left something to be desired.

Medias

NOTES BY
Sergey Karjakin

IG 2.11 – C53
Vasily Ivanchuk
Sergey Karjakin
Medias 2011 (5)

For me the tournament began with an insipid series of four draws. Not long before the event Zakhar Efimenko and I had been seconding Kramnik. Playing in parallel in the Ukrainian Championship, Zakhar also began with a series of draws, but the day before my game he managed to score his first win. And although I would not say that I was in a very aggressive mood playing black against Vasily Mikhailovich, nevertheless I was inspired with some confidence that my drawing series would also soon come to an end...

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4

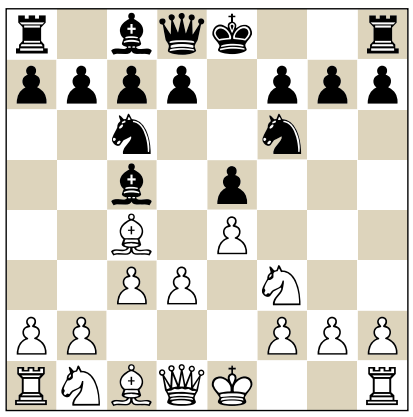
When playing against Vasily Mikhailovich there is no point in trying to guess the opening. This was also the case here. In our preparations 3.♗c4 had not been taken into account.

3...♗c5

A counter-surprise! Previously I had played exclusively 3...♘f6, and then 4.d3 ♗e7.

4.c3 ♘f6 5.d3

Here I had only a superficial knowledge of theory and therefore I decided to make moves of my own invention, rather than repeat familiar paths. As a result the difference in our clock times began to increase...



5...0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.h3 ♘e7

At the board I devised the idea of managing without ...a6 and ...♗a7, which is traditional in this variation, and, exploiting the fact that the e4 pawn is undefended (in the event of d3-d4), of switching the knight to the kingside.

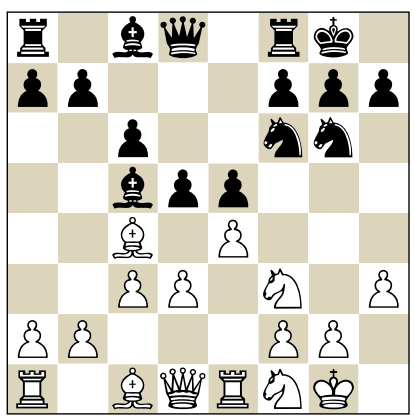
8.♖e1

8.d4 ♗b6 looks perfectly alright for Black.

8...♘g6 9.♘bd2 c6 10.♘f1

White calmly carries out his plan, but Black is now ready to begin play in the centre.

10...d5



11.exd5 ♘xd5

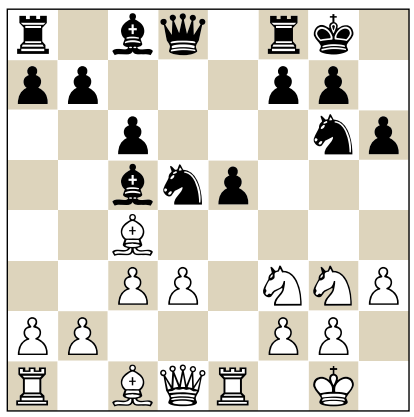
Exploiting the fact that the e5 pawn is immune.

11...cxd5 12.♗b3 appeals to me less, as the d5 and e5 pawns become targets for the white pieces.

12.♘g3

Of course, not 12.♘xe5? ♘xe5 13.♖xe5 ♗xf2+!, with advantage to Black!

12...h6 I could have chosen the quiet 12...♕c7, but I wanted to prepare ♗e6.



13.♗b3

Not very ambitiously played. Viorel Iordachescu's suggestion 13.♘h5!? was more interesting. The main idea of this move is revealed in the variation 13...♖e8? (13...♕b6? 14.♕d2! is also very dangerous for Black) 14.d4 exd4 15.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 16.♗xd5 cxd5 17.♗xh6!. Black should prefer 13...♕c7!, retaining approximate equality.

13...♖e8

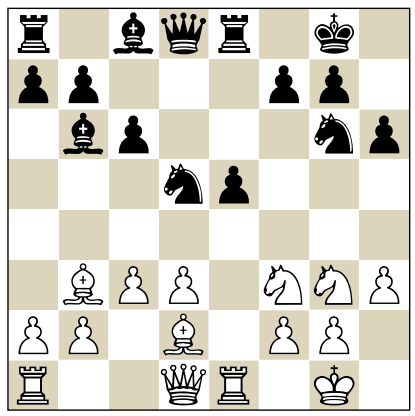
Here I think we can sum up the result of the opening. Black has fully equalized and he has free play for his pieces.

14.♗d2

I was rather expecting 14.d4 exd4 15.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 16.♗xd5 cxd5 17.♘xd4, with a roughly equal position, in which the weakness of the d5 pawn is compensated for by the two bishops.

14...♗b6

It was also possible to play 14...♗e6 immediately with a good game.



15.♕c2?!

The start of an incorrect plan. White should have been thinking about equality after 15.d4 exd4 16.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 17.♗xd5 cxd5 18.♘xd4.

15...♗e6

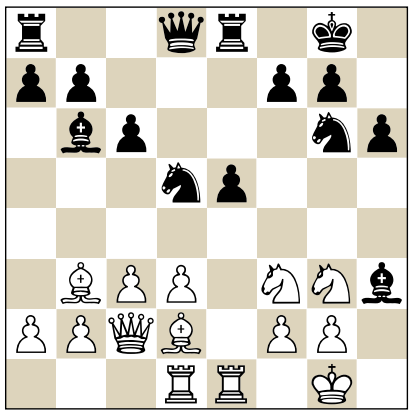
Nothing was given by 15...♗xh3? 16.gxh3 ♕f6 17.♕d1 ♘h4 18.♘xh4 ♕xf2+ 19.♔h1 ♕xg3 20.♕g4 ♕xg4 21.hxg4 ♗f2 22.♘f3 ♗xe1 23.♖xe1 with slightly the better endgame for White.

16.♖ad1?

Continuing the incorrect idea, which has a tactical refutation! White should have concerned himself with how to equalize. There is no full equality after 16.d4 exd4 17.♘xd4 ♗xd4 18.cxd4 ♘df4, with a slight advantage to Black.

Possibly the most accurate was 16.♖e4 ♘f6 17.♖e2 ♗xb3 18.axb3 ♕d7 19.♖ae1, when White is close to equalizing.

16...♗xh3!



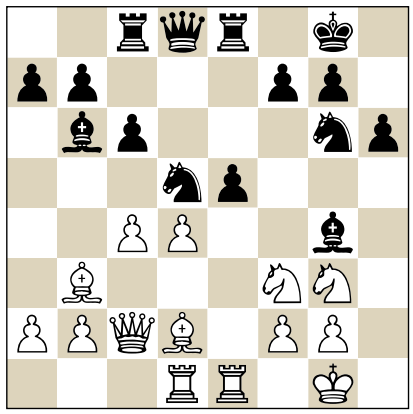
An attractive and unexpected blow! Mainly because ...♗e6 has just been played, and now comes ...♗e6xh3! with the 'loss' of a tempo. It is amusing that on the previous move I did not see this move at all, but here, realizing that the white queen was rather cut off from the kingside, this idea suddenly occurred to me!

17.c4?

During the game we both thought this was the strongest move, but after it Black has an obvious advantage!

White loses immediately after 17.gxh3?? ♕f6 (here, in contrast, to the 15...♗h3 variation, the white rook has occupied the d1-square and White does not have ♕d1) 18.♔g2 ♘h4+ 19.♘xh4 ♕xf2+ 20.♔h1 ♕xg3.

After 17.d4 ♗g4 18.c4 Black has the strong and pretty continuation 18...♖c8!. Here White has a wide choice, but in all variations Black retains a small advantage:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

A) 19.cxd5 cxd5 20.♕d3 e4 21.♘xe4 ♗f5 22.♘e5 ♘xe5 23.♕g3 dxe4 24.dxe5;

B) 19.♘xe5 ♘xe5 20.dxe5 ♕h4 21.c5 ♗xd1 22.♖xd1 ♗c7 23.♘f5 ♕g4 24.f3 ♕g6 25.f4 ♖cd8;

C) 19.♗c1 ♗xf3 20.gxf3 ♘b4 21.♕f5 ♗xd4 22.a3 ♘h4 23.♕g4 ♘a6 24.♗c2 ♕f6 25.f4 exf4 26.♗xf4 ♘g6 27.♗xg6 fxg6 28.♘e4 ♕f5 29.♕xf5 gxf5 30.♖xd4 fxe4 31.♖exe4;

D) 19.dxe5 ♗xf3 20.gxf3 ♕h4 21.c5 ♕h3 22.♕f5 ♕xf5 23.♘xf5 ♗xc5;

E) 19.♕b1 ♗xf3 20.gxf3 ♘h4 21.cxd5 ♕d7 22.♖e4 ♘xf3+ 23.♔g2 cxd5 24.♔xf3 dxe4+ 25.♕xe4 exd4 26.♕f5 ♖ed8 27.♕xd7 ♖xd7.

Apparently this is the best that White could have achieved! Black is slightly better, but not more.

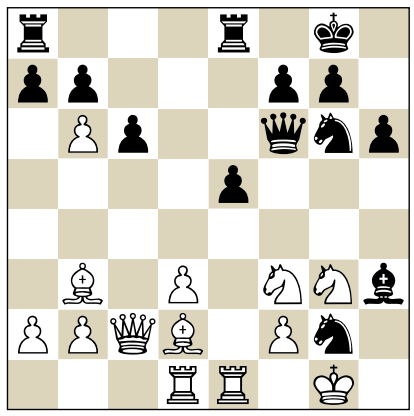
17...♘df4 18.c5

Other continuations are no better: 18.♗xf4 exf4 19.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 20.c5 fxg3, or 18.gxh3 ♕d7.

18...♘xg2

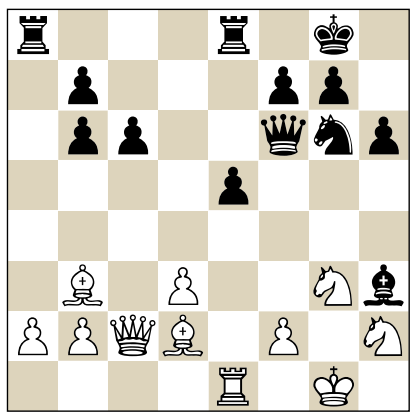
18...♗xg2 19.♘xe5 is not so clear.

19.cxb6 ♕f6



Exploiting the fact that he has control of the e3-square, Black forces the knight to move from its good position.

20.♘h2 ♘xe1 21.♖xe1 axb6



With a material advantage and the white king insecurely placed, Black is guaranteed a decisive advantage.

22.♗c3

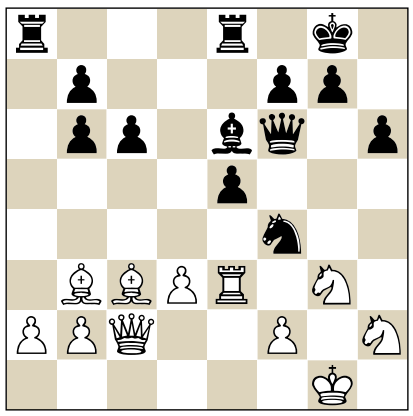
Losing control of f4, but there is noth-

PETER DOGGERS

Sergey Karjakin sensationally defeated his former compatriot Vasily Ivanchuk 2-0.

ing better: 22.♘e4 ♕e7 23.♖e3 ♗e6 24.♖g3 ♘f4, or 22.♖e4 ♗e6 23.♘g4 ♕f3 24.♘h2 ♗xb3 25.♕xb3 ♕f6, with a technically won position!

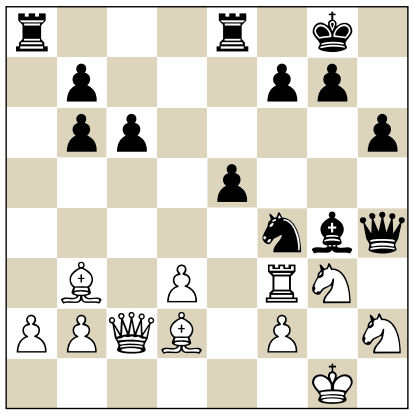
22...♗e6 23.♖e3 ♘f4



24.♖f3

White also loses after 24.♖xe5 ♗xb3 25.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 26.axb3 ♕g5.

24...♕h4 25.♗d2 ♗g4



26.♕c4

Things were also hopeless after 26. ♗xf4 ♗xf3 27.♗xe5 ♗d5 28.♗xd5 cxd5 29.♗xg7 ♕h3 30.♗f6 (30.♗c3 d4) 30...♖e1+ 31.♘hf1 ♖c8 32.♕a4 d4 33.♗xd4 ♖xf1+ 34.♘xf1 ♕g4+ 35.♘g3 ♖d8.

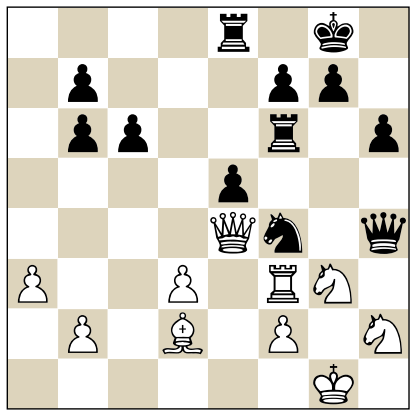
26...♗e6

With about 10 minutes on my clock, I decided to choose the safest way. 26...♗xf3 27.♕xf7+ ♔h7 28.♘xf3 ♕g4 29.♗xf4 ♕xf4 would also have won.

27.♕c2 ♗xb3 28.♕xb3 ♖e6

Bringing the rook closer to the white king.

29.a3 ♖ae8 30.♕b4 ♖f6 31.♕e4



31...♖ee6!

The last accurate move. White has no defence against the numerous threats to his king.

32.♘e2

This loses quickly, but nothing better is apparent.

32...♘xe2+

With little time on the clock, I decided to take the game into a technical phase. However, here nearly everything would have won (32...♖g6+ 33.♔h1 f5).

33.♕xe2 ♖xf3 34.♕xf3 ♖g6+ 35.♔h1 ♖f6 36.♕g3 ♕xg3 37.fxg3 ♖d6

And in view of the loss of a fourth pawn, White resigned!

NOTES BY
Sergey Karjakin

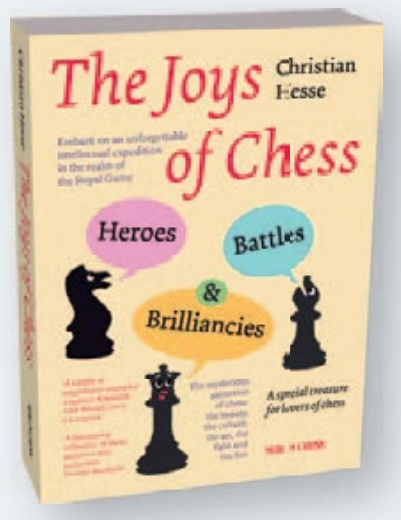
PU 13.10 – B09
Sergey Karjakin
Vasily Ivanchuk
Medias 2011 (9)

Before the game my chauffeur, who each day took me to the tournament and back, gave me a directive for the last two rounds: 'Ivanchuk-victoria, Carlsen-remiza'. I managed to carry this out in full ☺!

1.e4 d6

As usual, Vasily Mikhailovich is the first to spring a surprise. In our preparations for the game we certainly did not expect the Pirc. But surprises can also be pleasant...

2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 g6 4.f4 ♗g7 5.♘f3 0-0 6.♗d3 ♘a6 7.0-0 c5 8.d5



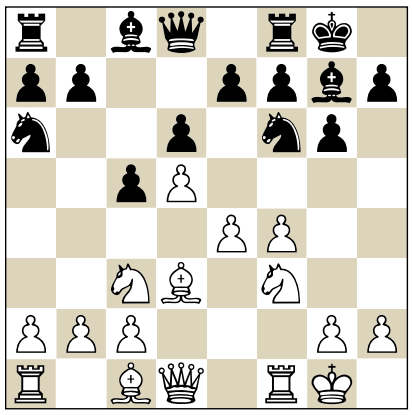
"Spectacular highlights and defining moments from chess history: fantastic moves, beautiful combinations, historical blunders, captivating stories, and all this embedded into a plentitude of quick-witted ideas and contemplations as food for thought."
World Champion Vishy Anand

"One of the most ingenious and enjoyable books ever written on chess."
Der Standard, Vienna

"A wealth of magnificent examples"
Vladimir Kramnik, 14th World Chess Champion:

"A fascinating collection of ideas, positions and curiosities."
Europa Rochade Magazine

Paperback • 432 pages • € 29.90 • available at your local (chess)bookseller or at newinchess.com

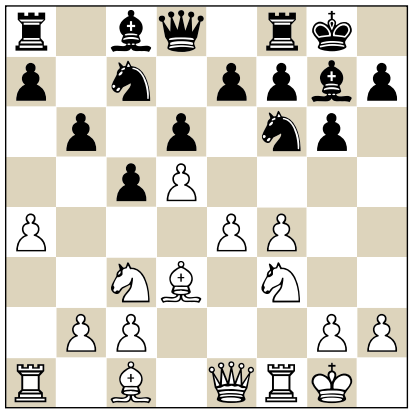


8...♘c7

A rare and, in my view, unsuccessful move. Recently this position has occurred three times in my games. Chatalbashev played 8...♗g4 against me, and Kramnik twice played 8...♖b8. I prefer both these to the move in the game.

9.a4 b6 10.♕e1

With the typical idea in this variation of playing ♕h4, f5 and ♗h6.



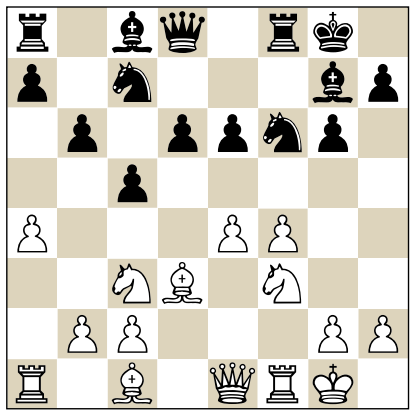
10...e6?

This move does not fit in with Black's preceding play. Since he has played ...b6, it is more logical to continue with the plan of ...a6 and ...♖b8. Although in this case too I think that Black comes under a strong attack, for example: 10...a6 11.♕h4 ♖b8 12.f5 b5 13.axb5 axb5 14.♗h6, with an unpleasant attack.

The computer suggests the artificial move 10...♕d7 with the idea of meeting ♕h4 with ...♕g4. Possibly this was comparatively better, but also unattractive for Black.

11.dxe6 fxe6

There is no choice. After 11...♘xe6 12.f5 ♘d4 13.♕h4 Black comes under a crushing attack!



12.e5!

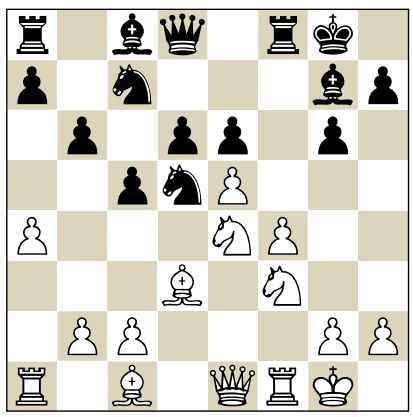
A simple blow, which completely clarifies the situation. White has an obvious advantage!

12...♘fd5

Possibly 12...♘g4 was the lesser evil, after which White has an obvious advantage, but at any event there is no forced win.

12...♘h5 would have been met by the pretty 13.f5! gxf5 (13...exf5 14.♗g5 ♕d7 15.exd6 ♕xd6 16.♗e7, winning the exchange) 14.♗g5 ♕d7 15.♕h4.

13.♘e4



13...dxe5?!

13...♘e8 would hardly have saved Black after 14.♘eg5, but with the move in the game he aggravates his position still further.

14.fxe5

Now Black is simply defenceless against ♗g5, when a 'draught' begins blowing through the dark squares!

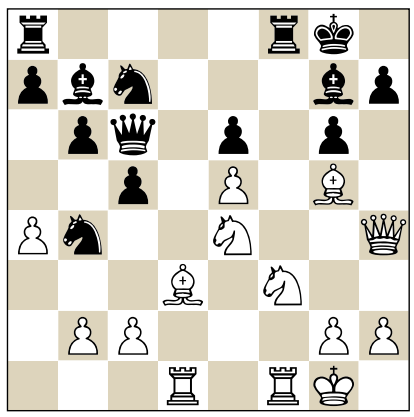
14...♗b7

14...♘b4 would not have saved Black: 15.♗g5 ♘xd3 16.cxd3 ♕xd3 17.♖d1 ♕c2 18.♗e7, with a decisive advantage!

15.♗g5 ♕d7 16.♕h4 ♘b4 17.♖ad1

White's game is easy and does not demand any effort.

17...♕c6 17...♘xd3 18.♖xd3 ♕c6 19.♘f6+ ♗xf6 20.exf6 was also hopeless, but after the move in the game Black loses by force.



18.♘f6+ ♗xf6 19.♗xg6!

An attractive, although not very complicated interposition. White develops a decisive attack!

19...hxg6 20.♗xf6 ♖xf6

20...♘bd5 was also hopeless: 21.♘d4! ♖xf6 (21...cxd4 22.♕h8+ ♔f7 23.♗g5+) 22.♘xc6 ♖xf1+ 23.♖xf1 ♗xc6 24.♕f2.

21.exf6 ♖f8 22.♕g5

In view of the numerous threats, Black resigned. This was not Ivanchuk's day.

NOTES BY

Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu

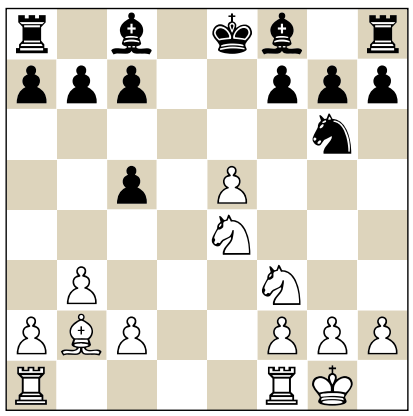
RL 7.4 – C67
Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu
Vasily Ivanchuk
Medias 2011 (3)

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 ♘f6 4.0-0 ♘xe4

A pleasant surprise for two reasons: I have never lost with white in the Berlin, and computer analysis is not possible in this opening.

5.d4 ♘d6 6.♗xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♘f5 8.♕xd8+ ♔xd8 9.♘c3 ♘e7 10.♘e4 ♘g6 11.b3 ♔e8 12.♗b2 c5 A logical novelty, played very quickly by my opponent.

Gashimov-Onischuk, Poikovsky 2009, went 12...♗f5 13.♖fe1 ♘f4 14.g3 ♘e6 15.♘h4 ♗g4 16.f3 ♗h5 17.f4, with a white edge.



13.♘fd2!?

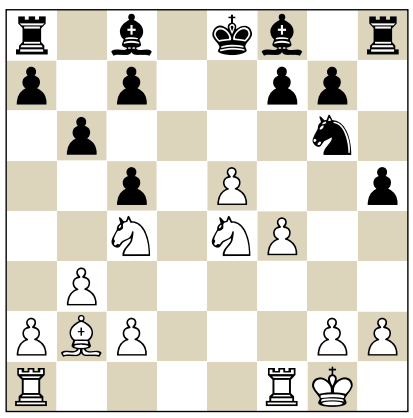
An interesting idea found over the board. I thought that the best square for this knight is e3 and I decided to switch it there as soon as possible.

13...h5

Played very quickly again. Black had many possibilities and I was really taken aback by the speed of Ivanchuk's decisions.

After the logical 13...♗f5 I was intending to go 14.f3, with the idea of ♘c4-e3, although I am not sure how good it really is.

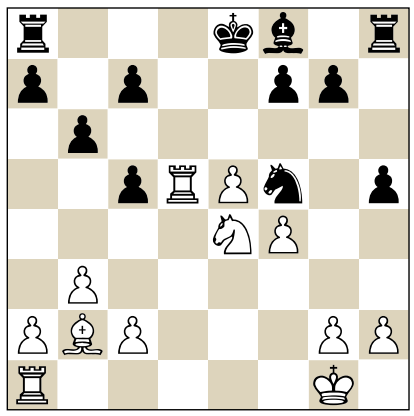
14.♘c4 b6 15.f4



15...♘e7 Possibly better was 15...♗f5 16.♖ae1 (during the game 16.♘g3 seemed strong to me, but after 16...♗xc2 17.f5 ♘e7 18.f6 ♘c6 19.e6 g6! the position is unclear) 16...h4 17.♘g5, with a slight edge for White.

16.♘e3 ♘f5 17.♘d5 ♗b7 18.♖fd1 ♗xd5 19.♖xd5

White has deprived Black of his bishop pair and now enjoys a small but risk-free advantage.



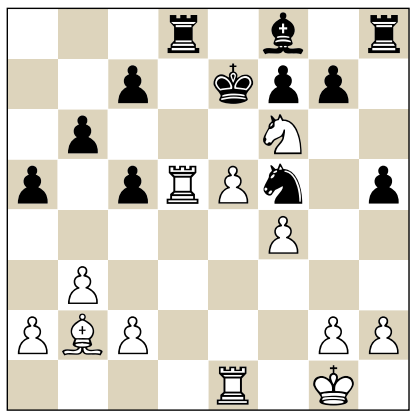
19...a5?! 19...♘e3 20.♖d2 ♖d8 21.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 22.c4 was a tougher defence. **20.♖e1!** Now, besides his positional problems, Black has to face some tactical ones as well.

20...♖d8

20...♖h6? loses to the amusing 21.♘f6+ ♔e7 22.♘g8+.

20...c6 is what the program suggests, but every Berlin player knows that this move is not a good sign for Black. It takes away the best square for the black king and also weakens the d6-square.

21.♘f6+ ♔e7

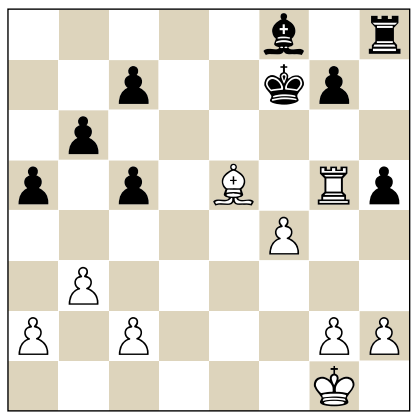


22.e6!? A nice tactical stroke, which nets White a pawn.

22.♖ed1 ♖c8 23.♘e4 ♔e8 24.♔f2 was also good, possibly even better than the game continuation, but with time-trouble approaching, I wanted to force the issue a bit.

22...♖xd5 23.♘xd5+ ♔d6 24.exf7 ♔xd5 25.♖e5+ ♔d6 26.♖xf5 ♔e6 27.♖g5 ♔xf7 28.♗e5

After a sequence of forced moves we have reached a position which I had evaluated as winning for White. Unfortunately, Ivanchuk's next move brought me back to earth.



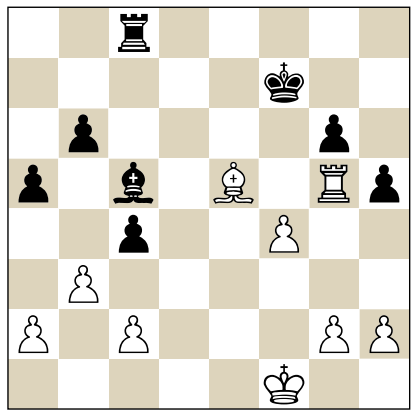
28...c4! Of course!

I had been hoping for 28...c6 29.c4 ♖g8 30.f5 ♗e7 31.♖g6 ♗f6 32.♗xf6 gxf6 33.♖xg8 ♔xg8 34.♔f2, with a winning pawn ending.

29.♗xc7 ♗c5+ 30.♔f1 ♖c8

30...g6! 31.♖d5 cxb3 32.cxb3 ♖c8 33.♗e5 ♔e6 34.♖d2 ♔f5 35.g3 h4 would have given Black decent chances of a draw.

31.♗e5 g6



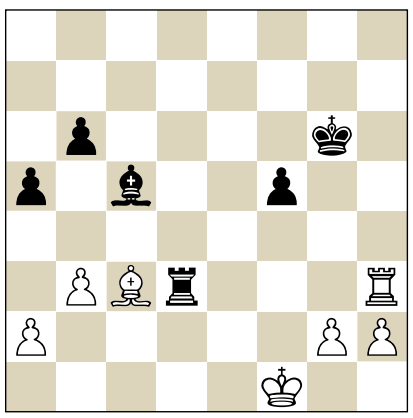
Medias 2011 cat. XXI

				1	2	3	4	5	6		TPR
1 Magnus Carlsen	IGM	NOR	2815	* *	½ ½	½ ½	1 ½	1 ½	½ 1	6½	2855
2 Sergey Karjakin	IGM	RUS	2776	½ ½	* *	½ ½	½ ½	½ 1	1 1	6½	2863
3 Teimour Radjabov	IGM	AZE	2744	½ ½	½ ½	* *	½ ½	½ ½	0 ½	4½	2724
4 Hikaru Nakamura	IGM	USA	2774	0 ½	½ ½	½ ½	* *	1 ½	½ 0	4½	2718
5 Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu	IGM	ROU	2659	0 ½	½ 0	½ ½	0 ½	* *	1 ½	4	2705
6 Vasily Ivanchuk	IGM	UKR	2776	½ 0	0 0	1 ½	½ 1	0 ½	* *	4	2681

Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu: 'A pleasant surprise for two reasons: I have never lost with white in the Berlin, and computer analysis is not possible in this opening.'

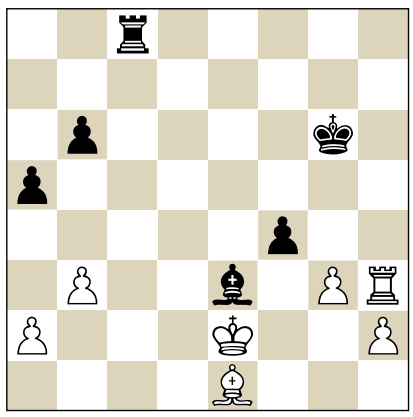
PETER DOGGERS

32.f5! gxf5 33.♖xh5!
Not good is 33.♖xf5+ ♔e6 34.♖xh5 ♖f8+ 35.♔e1 ♖f2, with strong counterplay.
33...♖d8 34.♗c3 cxb3 35.cxb3
Better was 35.♖xf5+ ♔g6 36.♖f6+ ♔g5 37.cxb3 ♖d1+ 38.♔e2 ♖g1 39.h4+ ♔xh4 40.♖g6 ♔h5 41.♖g8, but I was too low on time to see that.
35...♔g6 36.♖h8 ♖d3 37.♖h3

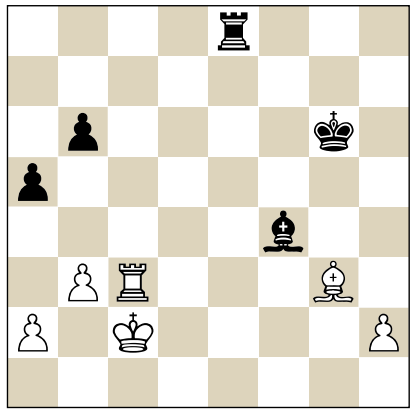


37...♗e3? A blunder.
Black should have tried 37...♖d1+ 38.♔e2 ♖c1 39.♖g3+ ♔h5 40.♔d3.
38.♗e1??
38.♗e5, with the idea of ♗f4, would have won immediately, but this move never really occurred to me in the few seconds I had left to reach the time-control.

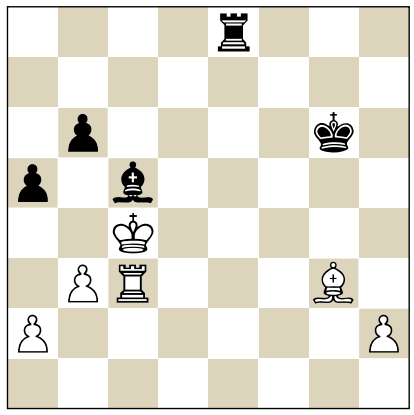
38...f4 39.♔e2 ♖d8 40.g3 ♖c8
Now the win is quite problematic, if at all possible.



41.gxf4
Interesting was 41.a4, since 41...b5? 42.axb5 ♖b8 43.♔f3 ♖xb5 44.gxf4 ♖xb3 45.♔e4 is losing for Black. On the other hand, ...b5 constantly remains a threat after pushing the pawn to a4.
41...♗xf4 42.♖c3
Even though this move allows Black to draw by force, I can't 'award' it a question mark, since I think that it was the best chance in over-the-board play.
42.a4 ♖e8+ 43.♔f1 ♖e5 44.♖d3 b5 is probably a draw.
42...♖e8+
It seems that Black had a draw with 42...♖xc3! 43.♗xc3 ♗xh2 44.♔d3 ♔f5 45.♔c4 ♔e6 46.♗d4 a4 47.b4 ♗d6 48.♔b5 ♗xb4 49.♔xb4 ♔d5 50.♗f2 ♔c6 51.a3, and according to the tablebases, this is a draw.
43.♔d1 ♖d8+ 44.♔c2 ♖e8
Now the bishop ending is winning for White after 44...♗xh2 45.♖c6+ ♖d6 46.♖xd6+ ♗xd6 47.♔d3 ♔f5 48.♔c4 ♔e6 49.♔b5 ♗c5 50.♗xa5!.
45.♗g3



45...♗e3?
I could not find a win for White in the rook ending after 45...♗xg3! 46.♖xg3+ (Black also draws after 46.♖c6+ ♔f7 47.hxg3 ♖e2+ 48.♔b1 b5 49.♖c5 ♖e1+ 50.♔b2 ♖e2+ 51.♖c2 ♖e5 52.♔a3 ♖g5) 46...♔f5 47.h4 ♖e2+ 48.♔b1 ♖h2 49.♖g5+ ♔e4 50.♖b5 ♖xh4 51.♖xb6 ♔d4 52.♖c6 ♔d5 53.♖c8 a4 54.♔b2 axb3 55.axb3 ♖h7 56.b4 ♔d6 57.♔b3 ♖c7, with a draw.
46.♔d3 ♗c5 47.♔c4



Now the king reaches the dream square b5 and Black's fate is sealed.
47...a4 48.♔b5 axb3 49.axb3 ♖e2 50.♗c7 ♖e6 51.b4 ♗e7 52.♖c4 ♔f5 53.♗xb6 ♗d6 54.♗c7
Black resigned. ■

Arguably the most famous tournament book in chess literature is David Bronstein's 'Zurich 1953'. Bronstein's classic is not the only book written about the Candidates tournament in Neuhausen and Zurich. Max Euwe and Gideon Stahlberg are amongst the other authors that immortalized the Swiss summit that ended in a superb victory for Smyslov, ahead of Bronstein, Keres and Reshevsky. Recently **Mihail Marin** 'rediscovered' the two volumes that Miguel Najdorf, another participant, dedicated to this titanic struggle. Reading in *15 Aspirantes al Campeonato Mundial*, which appeared in Buenos Aires in 1954, Marin also returned to Bronstein's book, published two years later, and made some remarkable discoveries.

'Zurich 1953'

A new perspective

Every now and then, we are reminded that using the rich chess inheritance of the past is an indispensable condition for making significant progress. This also applies to other domains of activities, but for us it would be useful to identify the specific elements of this somewhat abstract concept named 'inheritance'. I would think that great tournaments, games of great players, great annotations (preferably gathered together into great books) are some of the most important items. One extremely favourable circumstance is when several such elements are combined, for instance when a great player and commentator writes a book on a tournament in which he participated.

Miguel Najdorf meets Miguel Najdorf and Armenian sculptor Nikogosian.

Most probably, this would result in an immortal book.

Quite likely, the strong tournaments held in New York in 1924 and 1927 would not have been considered as milestones of chess history, had Alekhine not written his widely famous books dedicated to the analysis of these events. I would risk stating that the obverse is to some extent true as well: Alekhine himself might not have been the same without these books either. Only a close examination of the style of Capablanca (who played in both tournaments) allowed the Russian genius to spot the weak points of his great rival and defeat him in the marathon World Championship match in Buenos Aires in 1927.

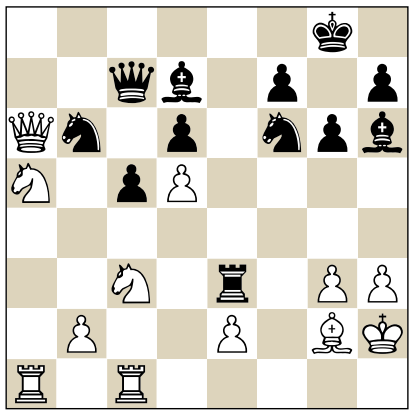
The list of such books can doubtlessly be continued, but there is one that clearly stands apart, on a pedestal that has never been shaken ever since the book was written: *The International Grandmaster Tournament, Zurich 1953*, by David Ionovich Bronstein. Strong players from several generations have admitted that they have learnt a lot from Bronstein's wonderful explanations and many consider it the best chess book ever written.

About a quarter of a century ago, I also was captivated by this book's third edition (this detail will later be revealed to be essential) and read it literally page by page, or, to use the saying of my high school history teacher 'from the title to the price'! For the first time in my life I experienced a truly high-standard chess lecture and I have kept the same feeling ever since.

In recent years, the Spanish publishing house Chessy, directed by grandmaster Alfonso Romero, started re-issuing a series of rare and virtually unknown books of pretty high value. The one that intrigued me most from the moment I first saw it on a bookshelf was *15 aspirantes al titulo mundial – Torneo de candidatos Zurich 1953* by Miguel Najdorf. The original edition had been published in Argentina in 1954 (two years before Bronstein's first edition), but apparently did not enjoy worldwide fame and remained within the confines of South-American chess.

Recently, I started reading Najdorf's book, partly because I hoped to revive some of the artistic emotions provoked by its much more famous 'brother' such a long time ago, but also because I had never yet had a chance to get acquainted with Don Miguel's chess universe. It did not take long before I got the confusing feeling that, despite the similar titles, the books were dealing with entirely different events. A brief check revealed that the game list was the same, which left me even more confused about... the cause of my confusion.

The game that best explains the situation was played in the very first round.



Max Euwe - Alexander Kotov
Zurich Candidates Tournament 1953
position after 24.♕xa6

A few moves earlier, Black had sacrificed an exchange on e3, weakening the enemy kingside considerably. His main problem now is that several of his pieces are stuck on the queenside, with apparently no chance of being switched to the opposite wing. Kotov decided that the only way to connect the two piece detachments would be to attack the d5 pawn with 24...♖e5. This meant completely giving up his attacking chances, while the threat against the central pawn proved to be illusory. Euwe played accurately in time-trouble and managed to increase his queenside domination until he trapped one of the knights with an elegant tactical manoeuvre.

Najdorf writes that Black would have obtained good winning chances with:

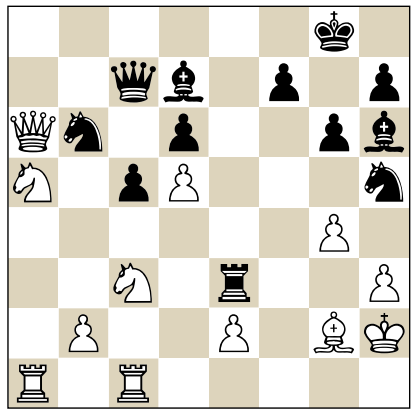
24...♘h5!

A natural move, which would be a serious candidate for any Benoni specialist. However, I was almost sure that I had not seen this pattern in Bronstein's book. Najdorf's main line goes:

25.♗f3

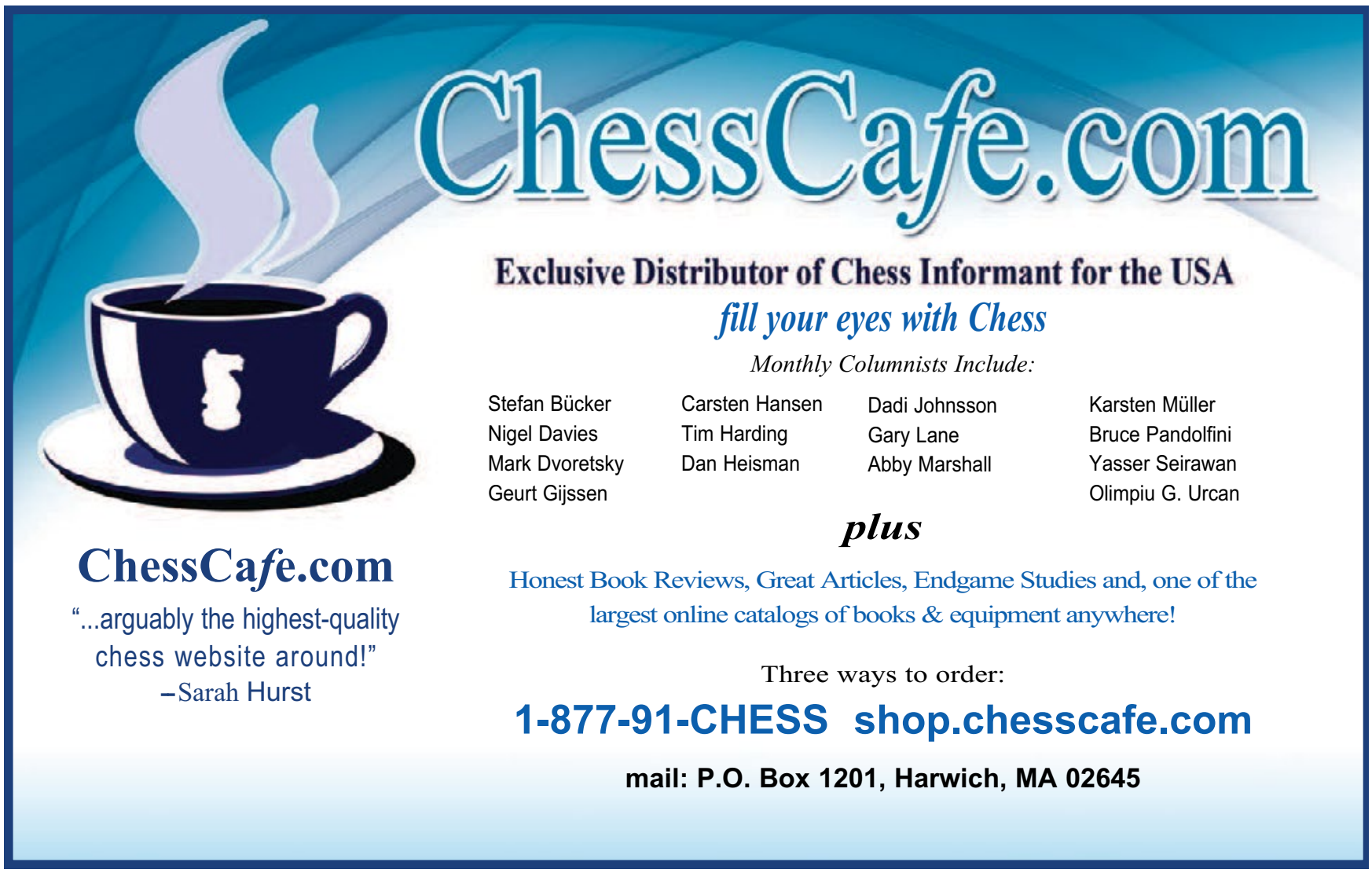
He also mentions that 25.♘c6 (aiming to prevent the queen from going to the opposite wing via d8) loses to 25...♗xc6 26.dxc6 d5! A very nice way to open lines between the kingside and the queenside, indeed.

I have examined some other continuations, which can all be met in the same way: 25.g4



25...♕d8! (this rapid queen transfer justifies Najdorf's considering 25.♘c6) 26.♖f1 (after 26.gxh5 ♕h4 the g2 bishop cannot neutralize the pressure of no fewer than four black pieces) 26...♗xg4! 27.hxg4 ♕h4+ 28.♔g1 ♖xc3, threatening ...♗e3+, with a decisive attack.

White is one tempo short after 25.♕b7 ♕d8 26.♘c4, too. The knight is taboo because of ♖a8, pinning the queen, but 26...♖xg3 creates decisive threats.



Finally, clearing the third rank does not help after 25.♘b5 ♕d8 26.♖c3 (or 26.♘c4 ♕g5, and White can no longer defend the dark squares) 26...♖xg3 27.♖xg3 ♗f4, with a decisive invasion of the dark squares.

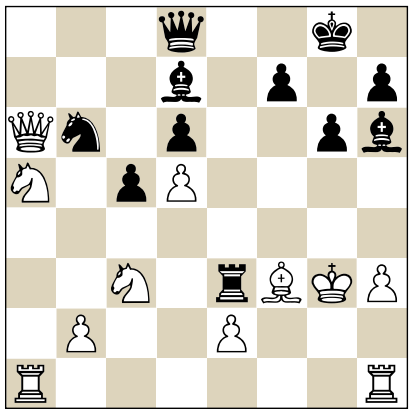
25...♘xg3! The start of a nice attacking sequence.

26.♔xg3 ♕d8! The same thematic manoeuvre as in the previous lines.

27.♖h1

A desperate attempt to keep the h3 pawn defended.

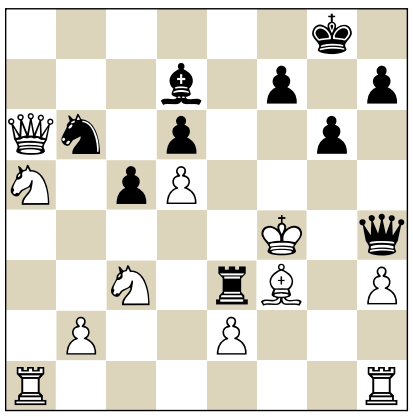
As pointed out by Najdorf, 27.♘e4 is met by 27...♖xe4!. Indeed, after 28.♗xe4 ♕g5+ White loses his king's only defender, leaving His Majesty exposed to the combined attack of the queen and bishops.



27...♗f4+! An unexpected way of speeding up the attack.

28.♔g2

28.♔xf4 leads to study-like mates in two after 28...♕h4+



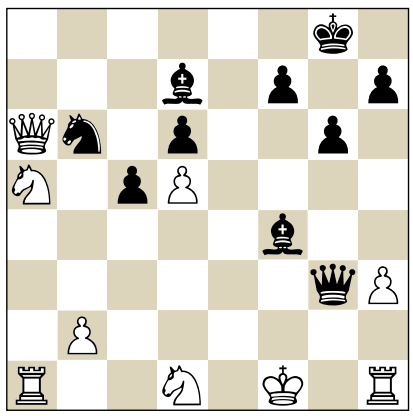
ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

29.♗g4 (this line is of even higher aesthetical value than 29.♔xe3 ♕d4 mate) 29...♕h6 mate.

28...♕g5+ 29.♔f1 ♕g3 30.♘d1

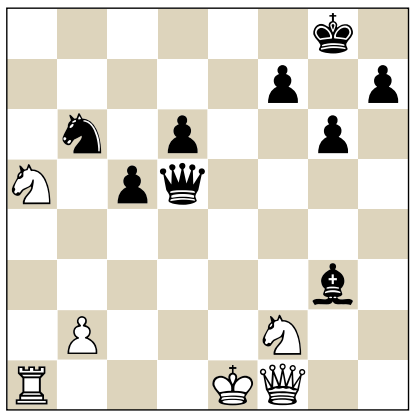
This is in fact an excellent practical illustration of one of Bronstein's most famous discourses; the one concerning the weakness of the dark squares. Having invaded them completely, Black extends his attack to the light squares.

30...♖xf3+! 31.exf3 ♕xf3+ 32.♔g1 This is the only chance to survive. Najdorf only analyses 32.♘f2 ♗g3−+. **32...♕g3+ 33.♔f1**



Clearly, Black has the draw in his pocket, which already justifies the improvement suggested by Najdorf on the 24th move. However, he can keep playing if he wants to.

33...♗xh3+ 34.♖xh3 ♕xh3+ 35.♔e1 ♕h1+ 36.♕f1 ♗g3+ 37.♘f2 ♕xd5



Black has four pawns for a rook and much better coordination. At the same time, the situation of the white king is very unsafe. Black's position is easier to play, to say the least.

After reading this nice piece of analysis (although it contains an imperfection), I immediately grasped the general character of Najdorf's book. Instead of indulging in theoretical and abstract discourses, like Bronstein, he preferred to identify the critical moments of the games and submit them to thorough and concrete examination.

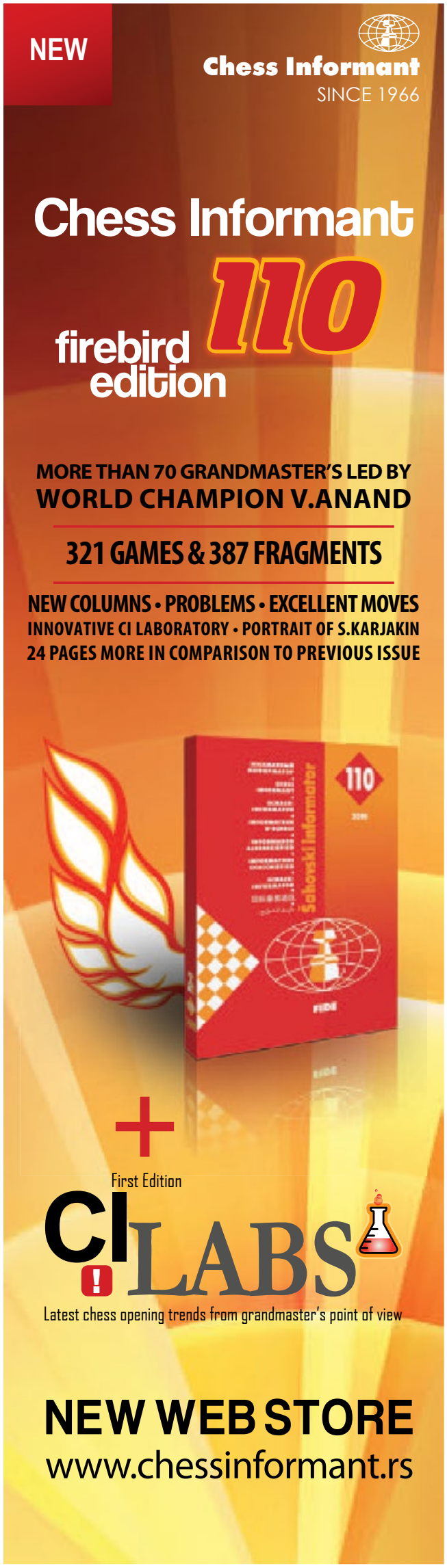
There is some symbolism in the opposite approaches of the authors if we remember that they were living antipodally to each other! Looking at the same reality from different hemispheres may offer opposite perspectives.

Needless to say, I immediately checked Bronstein's comments on this game. I have no words to describe my contradictory state of mind in those hectic moments. Finding out that my chess memory was not so good after

Looking at the same reality from different hemispheres may offer opposite perspectives.

all almost seemed like a lesser evil than having the confirmation that *the* book did not contain any mention of 24...♘h5. But it proved to be even worse: Bronstein annotates this game rather laconically, considering that the plan involving the exchange sacrifice had been unsound and that Euwe had won a good game.

While being relieved by the feeling that my personal honour had been saved and that I can still count on my memory, I had started smelling a rat. This kind of position used to be Bronstein's daily piece of bread as much as Najdorf's. In fact, the latter spends about half a page praising Bronstein's originality and creativity, placing him clearly above most of his competitors.

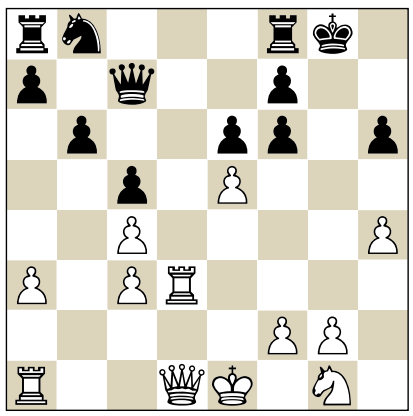


How come Bronstein had given this game such indifferent comments instead of getting enthusiastic about it?

This is by no means the only example of this kind; just one of the first ones that intrigued me and one of the most shocking as well.

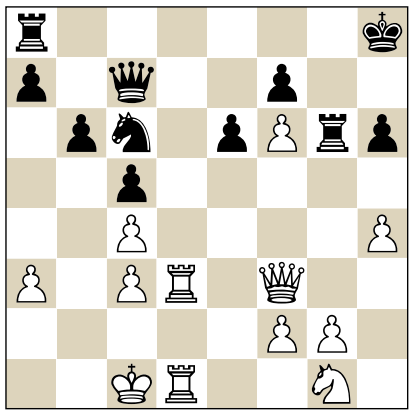
Even more puzzling is the fact that throughout his book Bronstein sometimes mentions that a certain move or line had been analysed by Najdorf. Before I got the latter's book, I would have believed that he referred to some occasional comments for magazines, but given the two-year interval between the publishing dates it is pretty clear that he had read the *15 aspirantes*. So, returning to the concrete situation of the Euwe-Kotov game: even after being given a clear hint about the promising nature of the attack, he still did not say a word about it (?!) Not what one would expect from Bronstein.

At some point, I decided that keeping both books at hand was the best way to proceed. The real crisis arrived when I read the comments to a game played in the eleventh round.



Paul Keres - Samuel Reshevsky
Zurich Candidates Tournament 1953
position after 15...gxf6

Keres had played the opening very energetically and has managed to weaken the enemy king's position while retaining a lead in development. Both authors criticize the next move: 16.♕g4+. In fact, this maintains at least part of White's advantage. After 16...♔h8 he should have continued with 17.exf6 (rather than 17.♕f3 ♘d7 as in the game, which eventually ended in a draw) 17...♖g8 18.♕h5 ♖g6 19.♕f3 ♘c6 20.0-0-0.



Black still has to find a way of retrieving the pawn, while White's pieces are very active. However, the relatively unsafe position of the white king makes things less clear than they should be.

Both books recommend 16.f4 as very strong. They give quite a few lines, sometimes identical, sometimes complementing each other, mostly of a spectacular nature, but this is not the core of the matter.

The real shock came when I read Bronstein's following comment: 'Botvinnik recommends:

16.exf6

and maybe this is the most significant thing that the reader has learned from these five pages.'

After a few almost breathless minutes I decided that this was getting too much already. Bronstein is known for having spent lots of time, energy, ink and paper over the years to convince everyone willing to listen to or read him that Botvinnik was quite different from the imposing image of the Patriarch of the Soviet Chess we are used to. No, definitely no, the last comment, of a highly eulogistic nature, could not have been written by Bronstein.

The best method to calm myself down before clearing this paradoxical matter was checking what I had actually suspected in advance: that Botvinnik was, as usual, right. When everything seems to crumble around

you, it only helps if you refer to the immutable values you have relied on for so long.

Here is a possible continuation of Botvinnik's line.

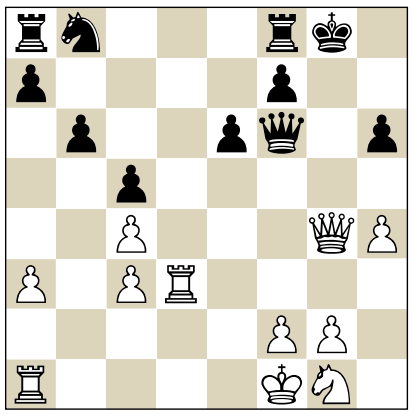
16...♕e5+

Eliminating the dangerous pawn is relatively the best way to parry the threat of mate in two.

16...♔h8 practically gives away a tempo, allowing the queen to go directly to h5: 17.♕h5 ♕f4 18.♘h3 ♕xf6 19.♖f3 ♕g7 20.♘g5, with the decisive threat of 21.♘xf7. 20...♔g8 would lose the queen after, for instance, 21.♘xe6, followed by ♖g3.

16...♔h7 exposes the king to a check on e4: 17.♕g4 ♖g8 18.♕e4+ ♔h8 19.♖ad1 ♘c6 20.♘f3. White has kept his extra pawn and retains a dominating position. What is worse (if there can be anything worse than that) is that the simplifying operation 20...♖ad8 21.♖xd8 ♖xd8 22.♖xd8+ ♘xd8 leaves Black helpless after 23.♕g4, followed by mate on g7.

17.♔f1 ♕xf6 18.♕g4+



18...♔h7

The king tries to take an active part in the defence. The idea is to parry 19.♕e4+ with 19...♕g6 without spoiling the pawn structure even more and weakening the seventh rank.

18...♔h8 leads to a hopeless endgame after 19.♕e4 ♕f5 20.♕xf5 exf5 21.♖d6 ♔h7 22.♘e2+−.

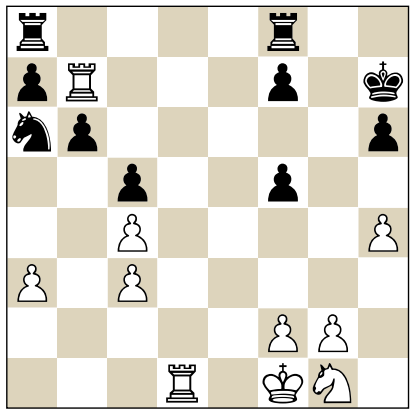
19.♖ad1

By defending his rook White reinforces the threat of ♕e4+.

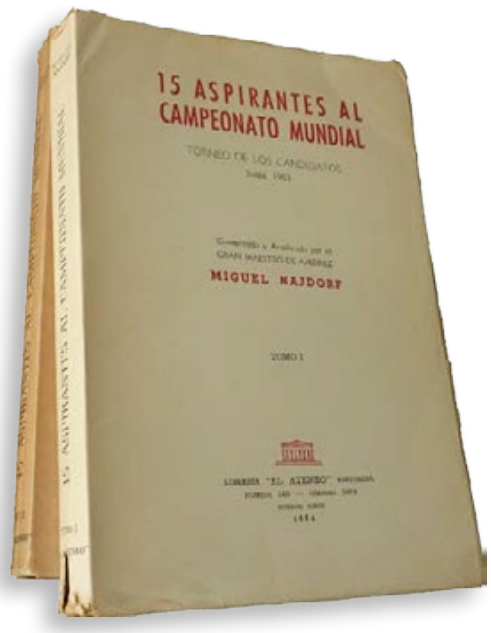
19...♕f5

Forced. 19...♕g6 loses the knight after 20.♕f3 ♘a6 21.♕b7.

20.♕xf5+ exf5 21.♖d6 ♘a6 22.♖d7 ♘b8 23.♖c7 ♘a6 24.♖b7



The knight is dominated; the kingside structure is in ruins. Black can resign with a clear conscience.



Miguel Najdorf's two volumes on 'Zurich 1953'.

The merit of Botvinnik's move is that it maintains the more or less decisive advantage with simple moves. Najdorf's and Bronstein's analyses contain many elegant lines, but from a practical point of view they also imply a higher risk of getting confused and spoiling everything.

After getting some moral doping from the confirmation of my general system of values, I felt strong enough to start searching for the truth. I vaguely remember that my friend Yuri Garrett, an Italian chess editor and organizer, who knew Bronstein rather well, had told me that the three editions of his book differed from each other. Yuri's *Caissa Italia* had translated into Italian what could be considered the more complete version, keeping all the valuable things added by the newer edition without removing what they had cut out from the original.

I pushed the Russian 1983 edition aside and opened the Italian book. Surprises continued to pop up.

The initial reference to Botvinnik's suggestion was mere information, without any elements of praise. It was in fact so laconic that one would think that the author had inserted the comment almost as an irony. It may also mean that someone had toyed around with the later editions before sending them to the printer, without Bronstein's knowledge or acceptance. At first this seemed mere speculation, but new elements eventually dropped in.

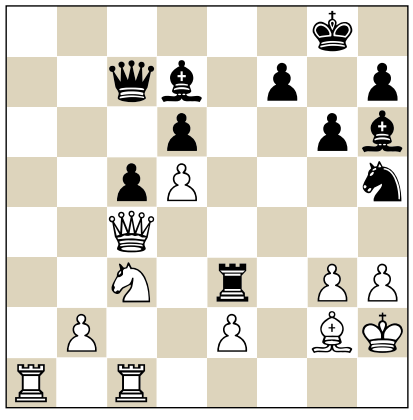
In the comments to the 24th move of the Euwe-Kotov game, as printed in the Italian edition, it is written: 'It was established that after 24...♘h5 Black gets a strong attack. For example:' and here Najdorf's main line is given.

I initially felt that not mentioning Najdorf's name somewhere around here could be regarded as slightly unfair, especially since this is not the only case of its kind. On second thought, I am ready to admit that this is an exaggerated critical approach. Let us compare the matter to a common situation from our days. It may happen that players of similar strength use computers of identical performance. Logically, they would find very similar lines without any of them having stolen information from the other. In those remote and happy days, people had to use their minds when analysing, but this necessity kept their minds very fit for that purpose. What they had in common were the general chess principles, which to a certain extent was equivalent to using similar engines. Of course, the games from Zurich 1953 were analysed again and again by grandmasters all over the world, and Najdorf himself may have

been inspired by some occasional article published, let us say, in the Soviet Union, or just by the joint post-mortem analysis.

Once again, as in the case of Botvinnik's analysis, this is just a sidetrack. The real problem arises now.

Bronstein continues with a comment that is not to be found in Najdorf's book: 'However, it was later discovered that it is not necessary to defend the g3 pawn and that White can simply play 25.♘c4 ♘xc4 26.♕xc4

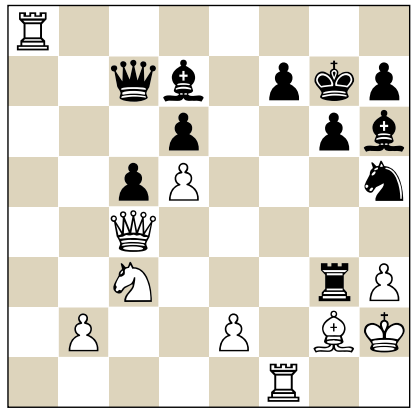


26...♘xg3 27.♘d1 ♕d8 28.♘xe3 ♗xe3 29.♖c3 ♕g5 30.♖xe3 ♕xe3 31.♖a3.'

Again, there was something that did not seem right. The final position is winning for White, indeed, but the whole sequence (given without any other comment) is unnatural, almost as if the author wished to prove the wrong nature of Black's attack at any cost. This is no less surprising than the comment from the third edition calling Black's previous exchange sacrifice 'unsound'. By his nature, Bronstein would be expected to try to prove the attack correct, not the opposite. Also, how come an attacking player with his imagination would call the line above 'simple'?

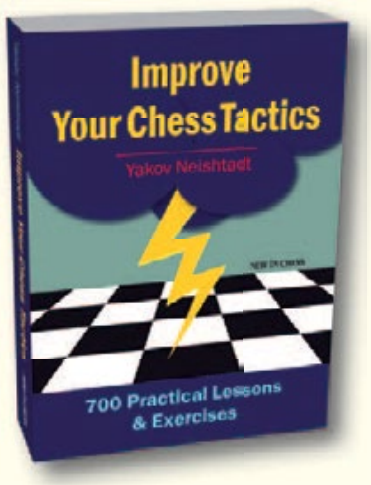
Apart from these general considerations, there are some concrete and quite major flaws in the analysis.

First of all, Black does not have to expose his pieces with 26...♘xg3, but can play 26...♖xg3 instead. The main threat is the familiar ...♕d8, followed by the queen transfer to the kingside, which more or less forces 27.♖a8+ ♔g7. White is now best advised to parry ...♗f4 with 28.♖f1.

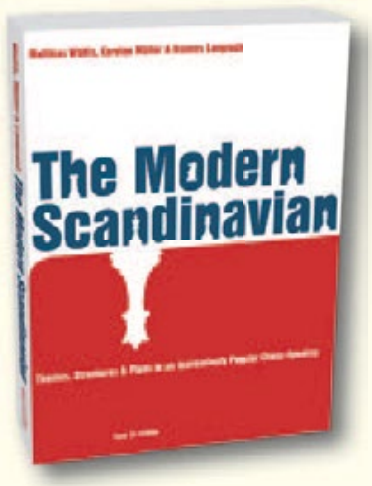


With one pawn for the exchange and absolute control of the dark squares, Black is not at all forced to attack. He can restore the harmony of his position with 28...♖e3, being prepared to defend f7 with ...♖e7 if needed, but also keeping threats such as ...♕b7, with a double attack, in reserve. White is in no immediate danger, but Black

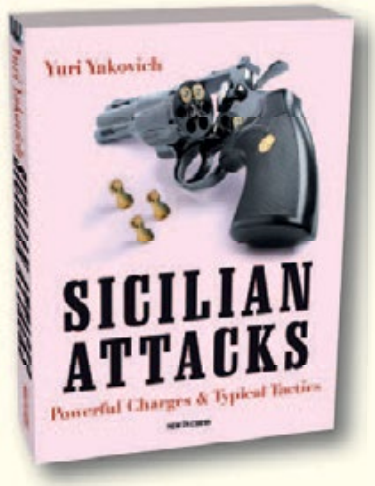
Recent titles from New In Chess



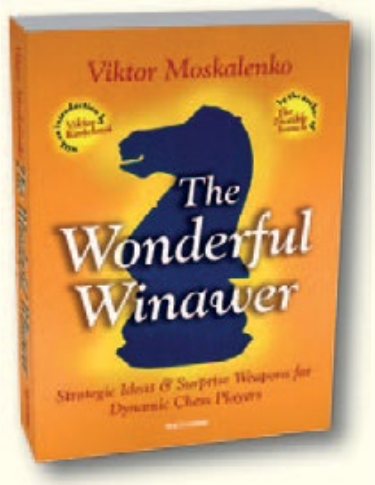
"A great book!"
Alexander Nikitin,
Garry Kasparov's coach



"There is a lot more on offer than merely guiding the Scandinavian faithfull through their favourite opening."
Marshtower
Chess Reviews



"This book is really, really good."
Carsten Hansen,
ChessCafe



"A true roller-coaster ride of a book."
Arne Moll
ChessVibes

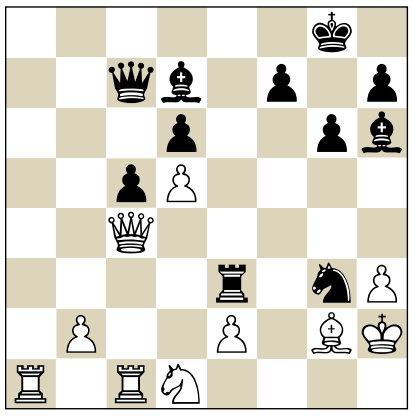
Available at your local (chess)bookseller or at www.newinchess.com

BORIS DOLMATOVSKY

Moscow 1981. David Bronstein and Boris Spassky listen to (arbiter) Salo Flohr.

can be at least satisfied with his position. I would go further by saying that Bronstein himself would be only too happy to play it with black!

Secondly, after 27.♘d1 from Bronstein's line, Black has an imaginative way of avoiding major material losses.



27...♘xe2! 28.♘xe3 ♗f4+ 29.♔h1 ♘g3+ 30.♔g1 ♗xe3+ 31.♔h2 ♘f5. The material balance is unusual (two pawns for two exchanges), but Black should be absolutely fine because of his unshakable stability on the dark squares. A possible plan is ...♗d4, followed by perpetual check (...♗e5-d4, combined with ...♘g3 if the king goes to h1).

Later in the line, White should play 29.♔xg3, winning, since after 29.♖c3 there still is 29...♘f5, with chances to hold.

After absorbing Bronstein's abstract explanation, one should also train one's concrete abilities by checking Najdorf's concrete lines.

It is quite possible that Bronstein had a bad day when annotating this game. When revising the later editions, he may well have become aware of the mistakes in this line and wished to make it disappear.

While this is possible, it does not seem probable.

Bronstein wrote a highly emotional foreword to the third edition, mentioning among others that most of his friends advised him not to change anything essential. They all agreed that it would be best to keep the freshness of the first impressions, rather than adapt them to the evolution of chess thinking over three entire decades. From this point of view, he could have removed his 'simple line', leaving Najdorf's variation. Also, why would he add the nuance that the whole attack is unsound?

I occasionally heard rumours about Bronstein being unhappy about the second and third editions. If the rumours are correct, I can understand him perfectly well. There is a clear logical gap between his foreword and the nature of some of the changes in the book, which suggests that he did not have absolute control over the newly published text.

After reaching these conclusions I immediately contacted Yuri to ask his opinion. After a while, my Italian friend said he remembers that Bronstein used to tell him certain things that he never completely understood, but which certainly become quite meaningful now. 'They added useless things and removed interesting comments – only for space reasons and propaganda' is a typical comment that Bronstein would make. He would only recognize the first edition as truly 'his'; but let's return to the problem of the third edition's foreword...

The absolute truth about this matter will probably remain clouded by mystery forever, but this is not essential. After all, there are spots on the sun, too.

I believe that new generations can still learn a lot from Bronstein's masterpiece, but also that a combined study of both books mentioned in this article is the most profitable method. After absorbing Bronstein's abstract explanation, one should also train one's concrete abilities by checking Najdorf's concrete lines.

Books are not like players, they do not compete with each other. Both classical works mentioned here are great enough on their own, but I find that they shine even brighter if taken together. ■

Short but Swedish

At the age of nineteen, the Sigeman tournament, one of the finest small traditional tournaments in the world, can look back on a happy childhood and look forward to a memorable jubilee next year. The 2011 edition, a short but tense sprint of five rounds, saw three winners, and miraculously the top-seed was not one of them. **Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam** travelled to Malmö, enjoyed the summer charms of the city and encountered a heart-warming love for classical chess.

Malmö

The Mirror Room in the Malmö Hipp Theatre must be one of the most elegant places where chess is being played these days. The beautifully decorated ceiling, the balconies, the chandeliers and the large mirrors easily evoke the atmosphere of chess tourneys of yore. The players in the Sigeman tournament are as modern as can be, but here in this stylish room they play in an environment that makes you feel pleasantly nostalgic. On the board they wage war, but the general mood is one of friendliness and comradery. No one frowns at an occasional brief exchange of words between the players, and it feels completely natural when during a tense game Jonny Hector gets up, picks an apple from the refreshment table and saunters over to the back of the room to offer his little daughter, who is sitting there with his wife, a bite too. Needless to say, the players aren't frisked before the rounds and can go to the bathroom unaccompanied and as often as they please. On the tournament website the games are, of course, relayed in real time.

With a beautifully decorated ceiling, balconies, chandeliers and large mirrors, the Mirror Room of the Hipp Theatre evokes the atmosphere of chess tourneys of yore.

Malmö

On the final day I am having a coffee with Johan Sigeman, whose name has been connected with the tournament for 19 years now. Summer has arrived in Malmö with no holds barred, and the outdoor terraces are overflowing with attractively tanned women and girls that tempt you to think that having a sun studio in Malmö must be a most profitable business. As we are talking about the tournament I raise the issue of anti-cheating measures and wonder about Sigeman's opinion. He looks at me in slight surprise and says: 'This is not my job, but we have never even discussed this, to take measures. Not that I can remember. Not one single year did we suspect anything.' Perhaps they never considered such measures because they wouldn't fit into the philosophy of the tournament, I venture. He thinks for a split second and replies laughingly: 'And not in the budget either!' I make one more attempt and suggest that at least they could ask the players to hand in their telephones. He is a bit puzzled by my insistence and says: 'I don't think they bring them. We trust them. That's the Swedish approach.'

Confidence and trust in the players they invite and a well-considered use of the limited financial means at their disposal always seem to have been the hallmarks of the Sigeman tournament right from its inception in 1993. In that year, the local Limhamn Chess Club wanted to stage an international chess tournament. Knowing Sigeman's interest in chess they asked him as a sponsor, and he agreed on the condition that the event be named after the law firm he had just started. The original plan was to have one tournament, but much to Sigeman's surprise his partners and employees immediately warmed up to the idea and remained enthusiastic. Even in economically problematic years, when he suggested that perhaps the moment had come to discontinue the tradition, they urged him to carry it on. Right from the start Sigeman worked closely together with Johan Berntsen of the Limhamn Chess Club, who acts as tournament director. They've always shared the same ambition. 'We want fighting chess and nice people. Johan Berntsen has always had the ambition to create a tournament that is pleasant for the players. Because he doesn't have that much money, we have to give them something else. To create this family atmosphere. I think that is the main reason why we have managed to carry on for so many years.' Over those years there have been various formats, but the formula was essentially always the same: at least one great player from the past or present, and a pleasant mix of experienced and young players from Sweden and abroad. When he is asked to name historical highlights, Sigeman's first recollection is the three tournaments that young Swedish GM Ferdinand Hellers won in the early years. 'Although he wasn't the rating favourite in any of these three tournaments he won them all. One year he shared first place, but he played 27 games without losing a single one.' But soon he turns to the legends that came to Malmö. Or Copenhagen, where part of the tournament took place sometimes thanks to the Öresund Bridge that connects the Danish capital and Malmö. For instance, it was a privilege to meet former World Champions like Vasily Smyslov and Boris Spassky. 'For a chess enthusiast to meet them and talk to them is like Christmas.' It was slightly disappointing that Spassky drew most of the games he played, but he more than made up for his pacifist chess in the commentary room. where he proved a great entertainer, explaining 'You know, in here I am a wolf, out there I am a sheep.' Sigeman also smiles when he recalls Margeir Petursson's reply to a sponsor who wanted to know how one became a world class player. 'Well, I wouldn't know', quipped the Icelandic GM, who later founded his own bank, the only Icelandic bank not to fall in the recent banking crisis.

> 'For a chess enthusiast to meet them and talk to them is like Christmas'

And then there was Vladimir Epishin, who managed to get lost in the small centre of Malmö. His colleague Nigel Short had explained to the Russian that it was very easy to walk from the players' hotel to the venue. Actually, it was a knight move! When you left the hotel you went straight ahead and then turned left, as easy as that. Epishin remembered the knight move, but instead of turning left he turned right and completely lost his way. In the end he managed to make a phone call to Johan Berntsen, who told him to stay where he was so he could pick him up. Johan Sigeman still has to laugh when he imagines how the two of them ran to the playing hall, where the round had already started. Berntsen ran in front, showing the way, followed by a puffing overweight Epishin, who in the process had to hold both the pockets of his pants, which were full of coins because he was in the habit of always paying with bills.

Another fond memory is the year when Viktor Kortchnoi participated and won convincingly. 'In the last round he played against Miles, who had to win to catch up with him. When he was making some last-ditch attempts, Kortchnoi made a dismissive gesture, apparently wondering what the Englishman was hoping for, and in a laconic reaction Miles shook his hand to draw the game.'

And he will not easily forget the year that Vasily Ivanchuk played and won. 'During the closing ceremony there was a banquet and we sat together. It was a bit hard for me to start a conversation, because he was a bit absent-

CALLE ERLANDSSON

Johan Sigeman is having fun at the opening ceremony (and so are Nils Grandelius and Hans Tikkanen behind him). Next to him sits Dolf Vos of the Wijk aan Zee tournament committee, with who the Swedes have cordial relations.

minded. And he would leave the table now and then and go for walks in the room. But then I decided to ask him about his fantastic queen sacrifice, ♕g7, against Shirov in Wijk aan Zee. His face lit up and he looked at me as if he saw me for the first time and started telling me everything about this game. As if I had turned a switch.'

A close friend for many years has been Jan Timman, who played several times and shared first place with Gulko in 2001. 'Jan Timman was and still is one of my favourite players. When I started to play he was the hope of the Western world and it was a great honour when he first came here. He was always good value for money and it was always pleasant to have him around. The first time he played I brought *The Art of Analysis*, which I had bought as a junior, and was pretty ecstatic when he wrote something in it.'

In 2004, Magnus Carlsen was the main attraction. Sigeman had hoped that the 13-year-old Norwegian would make his final GM-norm in Malmö, but as it was he had already clinched it in Dubai. 'But he did win the tournament and it was impressive to see how mature his play was.'

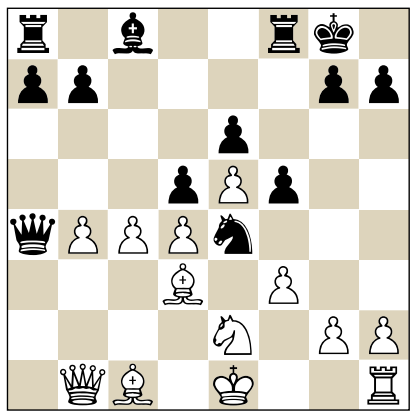
But there is one thing that goes for all players that have taken part in the Sigeman tournament. 'Whenever I follow tournaments online, which I do a lot, I always root for 'our' players, the ones who have been here. So I was very happy when Boris Gelfand won the Candidates' Matches. He was here in 1999. I talked to him at the Amber tournament in Monaco last March and he said, I won five games and it was mate in all five games! Or at least almost mate.'

And so, at the age of 19, the Sigeman tournament is still blossoming. Over the years a long list of sub-sponsors have kept the tradition alive. This time various new firms and companies contributed their share and Johan Sigeman is optimistic that next year's jubilee tournament will be a longer event than this year's six-player round-robin. Five rounds is certainly short for any tournament, but whoever has experienced the atmosphere and the true love for chess in Malmö knows that it is wonderful that this tradition continues.

The 'legend' and top seed in the 2011 edition was Alexey Shirov, who came to Sweden after his fine win in Lublin. His main rival seemed to be last year's winner Anish Giri, who keeps going from strength to strength. In the first round Shirov confirmed his role of favourite by defeating Jonny Hector in good style. However, it was another game in this round that turned out to be of crucial importance. Of the Swedish promises, Hans Tikkanen is perhaps the least known, although (or perhaps because) he has been a big promise for many years. But suddenly everything seems to fall in place for the 26-year-old from Lund. Over the past year he has gained about 100 rating points and losses have become a rarity. Thanks to a more solid repertoire as Black (Slav and Taimanov Sicilian) he could conclude at the end of the tournament that he only suffered one loss from his last 57 games. That was a couple of months ago against his fellow-townsman Nils Grandelius. In the Hipp Theatre they met again. This time they played a very sharp line of the Nimzo-Indian, following an encounter between Ivanchuk and Navara from 2004 until the black player made an expensive fingerfehler.

NI 24.13 – E32
Hans Tikkanen
Nils Grandelius
Malmö 2011 (1)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♕c2 0-0 5.e4 d5 6.e5 ♘e4 7.a3 ♗xc3+ 8.bxc3 c5 9.♗d3 cxd4 10.cxd4 ♘c6 11.♘e2 ♕a5+ 12.♔f1 ♘b4 13.axb4 ♕xa1 14.f3 f5 15.♕b1 ♕a4 16.♔e1



All smiles and dedicated as ever the Krzymowska sisters arrived at the Sigeman Tournament: (l. to r.) Amelia, Antonia and Adriana.

A Family Affair

The phenomenon of chess playing brothers and sisters can hardly be called a rarity. Just think of the brothers Byrne, Portisch, Timman, Nguyen and many others, or the Polgar, Kosintseva, Kosteniuk and Muzychuk sisters. But what to think of five siblings that are all smitten by the game? Three sisters and two brothers who devote a fair share of their time to chess and have their own television show, aptly called Chess TV! Their names are Adriana (24), Antonia (22) and Amelia (21) Krzymowska and their brothers Alfred (19) and Albert (17) Krzymowski, and they hail from Stockholm, Sweden.

It all started seven years ago, as some sort of protest, when all five of them were actively playing in weekend tournaments. Seeing the young talents around them and the efforts of the parents and trainers standing by their side, they wondered why all this escaped the attention of the press and why the media didn't show chess the way they wanted it to be shown. As Antonia puts it: 'For many people it's normal to think of nerds with glasses and greasy hair. With our programme we wanted to show the opposite. That it's a battle of minds. You're not just sitting there, you are thinking and creating something.'

At the time they ranged in age from 10 to 17, but that did not stop them from coming up with an audacious plan, a chess show on the open channel in Stockholm. Their parents liked the idea and gave them a camera; for the rest improvisation was the word. The lighting consisted of lamps for construction sites, and a table with a curtain as backdrop had to create the atmosphere of a studio. Their first programs were watched with a mix of amusement and appreciation, and many believed that they would lose their enthusiasm after a show or 10. As said, that was seven years ago. In the meantime their programme is shown on the open channels of 11 Swedish cities

and from Episode 97 onwards they could also be viewed on the Internet at www.chesstv.eu, first only in Swedish, now both in Swedish and in English.

The new season of weekly shows will start at the end of August, and one of the items will be a report on the Sigeman tournament recorded by Adriana, Antonia and Amelia during a visit to the Hipp Theatre. As they are the oldest and this is not the only time they are on the road together (for a six-hour drive from Stockholm to Malmö in the morning and then back in the evening), it is tempting to compare them to the Polgar sisters. They don't pretend that they never heard the comparison before, but are quick to put it in perspective: 'We always looked up to them, because our level of play was nowhere near theirs.' The question of whether they ever considered keeping the show to themselves, just the girls, and keeping their brothers out of the show, is rejected almost indignantly. They are a very close family and they have been raised by their parents to do things together. But the girls do admit that they may react hesitatingly to new ideas of their brothers and that it was hard to train them in the early years, as 'they could barely sit still.'

As their name suggests, their parents are originally from Poland. Their father fled the Communist regime in 1974, their mother arrived four years later. Their parents met in Sweden, started a firm that assists companies, primarily hotels, in mergers and acquisitions, and all the children were born in the new country. Their Polish background can be gleaned from their family name, but also from their initials, A.K. It's hard not to notice that their first names all begin with an A, a tradition that was started by their grandmother. She gave both her sons first names with an A, as a tribute to the Armia Krajowa (Home Army), the Polish underground army during World War II, in which their grandfather and a lot of relatives and friends had fought.

There are more family traditions that they honour. Before he retired, their grandfather was the Principal of the University of Olsztyn in Poland. He always said that you could make him proud by getting a doctoral degree. They all have been, are or will be studying law. Adriana and Antonia already hold LLM degrees and Adriana is writing her dissertation. Together they have started a law firm, where the others will join them. Adriana hopes that the others will follow her example and also write a dissertation one day. In fact, there is little that seems to indicate that any of them objects to that plan.

> 'The love that we have for chess has made it easier for us to love law.'

Five members of one family who all play chess and all feel attracted to law, sounds like a statistical anomaly, but that's not how they see it. As one of them explains: 'There are great similarities between chess and law. When you have a position in chess, you have to analyse it, you have to see your weak points, your strong points, you have to take risks and be ready to live with the consequences. That's the same in law, you have to analyse a case, to see the strong points, the weak points, whether it's worth to take a risk or not. The love that we have for chess has made it easier for us to love law.'

Studying and working on week days, while making their chess programme during the weekend, points at great discipline and an admirable work ethic. Referring to Amy Chua's parenting memoirs, I suggest that they must not only have a Tiger Mom but also a Tiger Dad. They laugh and one of them says: 'I think many people would like to compare our parents with her, but I don't think so. We were never really forced to do anything. We are just very grateful to our parents for letting us do this. How many parents would say, oh sure, go ahead, make a TV programme.' But they don't deny that this is the way they were brought up. 'Yes, we always have goals with everything we do. That goes for chess and everything else. All five of us share this impatience of sorts, which makes it impossible for us to just sit ▶

Easily won over by their charms, Anish Giri grants Chess TV an interview only minutes before his game against Jonny Hector is to start.

NEW IN CHESS

A Family Affair

around and do nothing. Chess taught us a lot there... Sit at the board and work it through till you're done. It's something we learned along the way. Our parents came to Sweden to start a new life, to make something of it, to use the opportunities.'

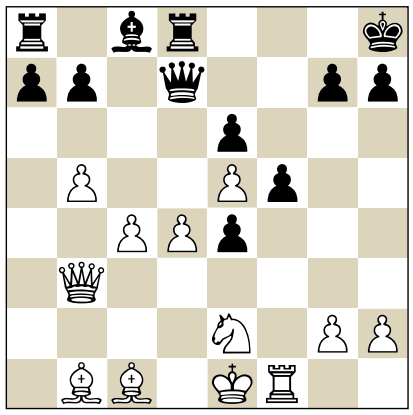
All of them still live at home, strengthening the image of a close-knit family. A cautious question about boyfriends is deftly circumvented by the girls, but they don't forget to say that they'd appreciate it we mentioned that they are always looking for sponsors. 'It's not cheap to make this show.' The main elements of the show are impressions from recent tournaments, opening advice for beginners and small lectures on the history of chess by Dr. Arne Johansson. They share his passion for history and are excited that for their first show after the summer they have just been to Uppsala to make an item about the Augsburg Art Cabinet, which in 1632 was presented to the Swedish king Gustav II. The cabinet contains over 1000 objects, all depicting the knowledge of the period, and one of them is a chess set.

And what about their plans for the future? 'We hope the show will survive and grow. Maybe we will find someone else who will take over after we won't be able to do it anymore. But for now we just go on as we've done for these past seven years. We don't have any plans to stop or change anything, we just want to continue as long as it is fun for us.'
Then, to great hilarity of the others, Antonia (was it her?) paints a broader picture of their future projects: 'We want to really put an effort into the law firm. And we also want to take over our parents' company. Our real goal is to take over the entire market in Europe, all the hotels! But we never want to put chess down, because it has given us and still gives us so much.' (DJtG)

NEW IN CHESS

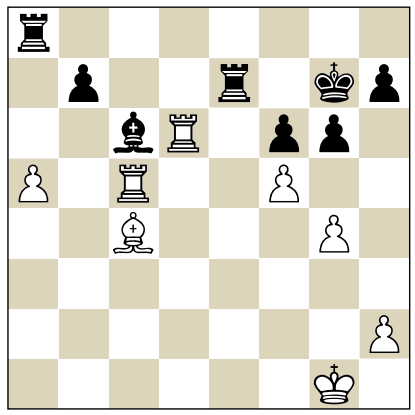
Suddenly solid. From his last 57 games Hans Tikkanen only lost one.

At this point Grandelius wanted to continue as Navara had done with 16...a5, but for some inexplicable reason he played: **16...♕c6** Tikkanen thought for 45 minutes and came up with the strong: **17.♕b3 ♔h8** 17...♖f7 18.fxe4 fxe4 19.♗c2 dxc4 20.♕b1 doesn't look too inviting either. **18.b5 ♕d7 19.♖f1!** The knight has no squares anyway. **19...♖d8 20.fxe4 dxe4 21.♗b1**



White's advantage is more than material, and with pointed play White converted it into a win. **21...b6 22.g4 a6 23.gxf5 exf5 24.d5 axb5 25.e6 ♕e7 26.♖xf5 bxc4 27.♕c3 ♕h4+ 28.♘g3 ♕xh2 29.♗b2 ♖a7 30.♗xe4 b5 31.♖h5 ♕g1+ 32.♔e2** Black resigned.

For Tikkanen this was the beginning of a great performance. His expected score was two points, but he held his own in all remaining games and won 10 more rating points. Particularly his cool defence against Shirov impressed.



Shirov-Tikkanen
position after 40...♔g7

This was the position after the first time-control. It looks as if Black is standing with his back against the wall, but Tikkanen remains admirably calm and uses his chances to de-

fend successfully. **41.♔f2 ♖e4 42.a6 ♖xc4** He had no choice, but this is an excellent exchange sacrifice. **43.♖xc4 ♖xa6 44.fxg6 hxg6 45.♖f4 ♖a2+ 46.♔e3 f5 47.gxf5 gxf5 48.♖h4 ♖a3+ 49.♔d2 ♖a2+ 50.♔c3 ♖a3+ 51.♔b2 ♖e3 52.♔c1 ♖e2 53.♖d2 ♖xd2 54.♔xd2 ♔g6** and the game was drawn after 68 moves.

For Shirov this was a further sign that things were not going his way. After a loss to Wesley So in Round 2 the top seed worked hard to get a plus-score again, but despite the chances he got he had to settle for draws only.

With only five rounds, a shared victory could hardly be called a surprise, and even the three-way tie for first that materialized was not sensational, but it was remarkable that Shirov was not among the three winners. One of them, as said, was Tikkanen, which gave his professional ambitions for the coming years a boost. For close to two years now he has been fully concentrating on chess and the efforts seem to be paying off. His main reason for totally dedicating himself to chess is 'mostly because I didn't want to do anything else'. For the moment he is enjoying himself immensely, and if things don't work out 'I can always go back to school'.

The second winner was Anish Giri, who swept the field last year (see New In Chess 2010/5). This time the 16-year-old Dutchman won a good game against Grandelius, but was slightly handicapped by the three blacks that he got. In a sprint of five rounds this certainly counts. After all, playing for a win with black is more difficult, as he experienced in the last round against the ultra-solid Tikkanen, when sole victory still seemed within reach.

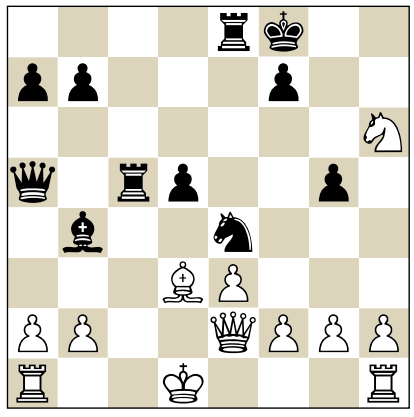
The third winner was Wesley So. In the penultimate round he seemed to spoil his chances when he let himself be overrun by a reborn Grandelius, who could finally use the preparation he had in fact done in a sharp Nimzo variation for Giri. So must have been shocked by what happened, but bore his fate gracefully.

NEW IN CHESS

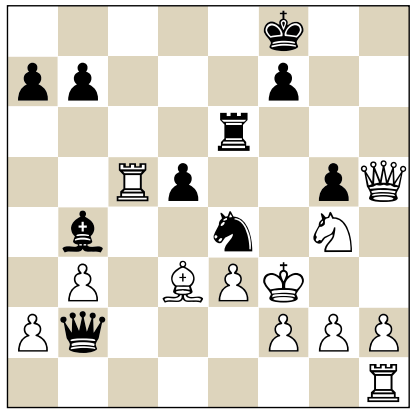
Alexey Shirov created chances but finished half a point behind the winners.

NI 23.13 – E35
Wesley So
Nils Grandelius
Malmö 2011 (4)

1.c4 e6 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.d4 ♗b4 4.♕c2 d5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.♗g5 c5 7.dxc5 h6 8.♗h4 g5 9.♗g3 ♘e4 10.e3 ♕a5 11.♘e2 ♗f5 12.♗e5 0-0 13.♘d4 ♖e8 14.♗xb8 ♘xc3 15.♘xf5 ♘e4+ 16.♔d1 ♖axb8 17.♘xh6+ ♔f8 18.♗d3 ♖bc8 19.♕e2 ♖xc5



Black can be happy with the outcome of the opening. White has an extra pawn, but his king is seriously compromised. So tries to launch a counterattack: **20.♕h5** But his queen sortie runs into a 4-move queen manoeuvre that essentially decides the game: **20...♕a4+ 21.b3 ♕d7 22.♔e2 ♕e6 23.♖ac1 ♕f6** Anyone wondering what was going on now saw that White is dead lost. **24.♘g4 ♕b2+ 25.♔f3 ♖e6 26.♖xc5**

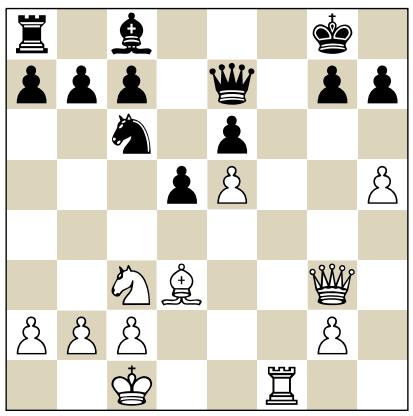


26...♖f6+! Grandelius ignores the rook and finishes the game in style. Much to his credit, So lets him mate him. **27.♘xf6 ♕xf6+ 28.♔g4 ♕e6+ 29.♔f3 ♕f5+ 30.♔e2 ♕xf2+ 31.♔d1 ♕d2** Mate.

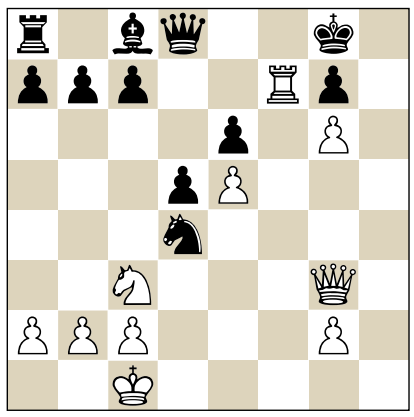
In the final round, the 17-year-old Philippine GM returned to +1 at the expense of the hardest worker of them all. In his first four games, Jonny Hector played an average of 82 moves, and on the final day he was again spoiling for a fight. In romantic fashion he threw everything at his opponent but the kitchen sink, but when he spurned a draw when his attack had run out of steam, he had to watch how, with admirable sangfroid, So walked his king to safety on the other side of the board.

FR 6.2 – C13
Jonny Hector
Wesley So
Malmö 2011 (5)

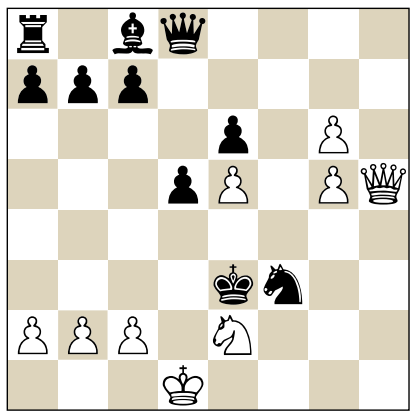
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗g5 ♗e7 5.e5 ♘fd7 6.h4 The Chatard-Alekhine Attack, a natural choice for a romantic like Jonny Hector. **6...0-0 7.♕g4 f6 8.♘f3 ♖f7 9.exf6 ♘xf6 10.♕g3 ♘c6 11.0-0-0 ♕f8 12.h5 ♗b4 13.♗xf6 ♖xf6 14.♗d3 ♗d6 15.♘e5 ♖xf2 16.♖df1 ♗xe5 17.dxe5 ♖xf1+ 18.♖xf1 ♕e7**



Black has fought off White's first offensive and is about to consolidate, but Hector has spotted a possibility to keep the fight going: **19.♗g6!? hxg6 20.hxg6 ♘d4 21.♖f7 ♕d8**



22.♕f4? The critical continuation was 22.♕g4, when after the computer line 22...♘f5 23.♕h5 ♘h6 24.g4 ♕e8 25.♖xc7 ♕d8 26.♘b5 ♕f8 Black makes a draw. After the text-move So can take over. **22...♘f5 23.g4 ♘h4 24.♖xg7+** This only looks dangerous. **24...♔xg7 25.♕f7+ ♔h6 26.♕h7+ ♔g5 27.♕h5+ ♔f4 28.♘e2+ ♔e3 29.g5 ♘f3 30.♔d1**



30...♕xg5 31.♕h7 ♔f2 Now the white king will be mated, so Hector resigned.

In case of a tie-break, Wesley So would have been the winner of the 19th Sigeman tournament, because of his better Sonneborn-Berger score, but there was no tie-breaker and at a convivial closing dinner in a local Italian restaurant the three winners shared the money and the honour.

NOTES BY
Wesley So

SL 1.5 – D30
Wesley So
Alexey Shirov
Malmö 2011 (2)

This game was played in the second round of a very short tournament (just five rounds). The bonus of having two Whites in the first two rounds made me happy.

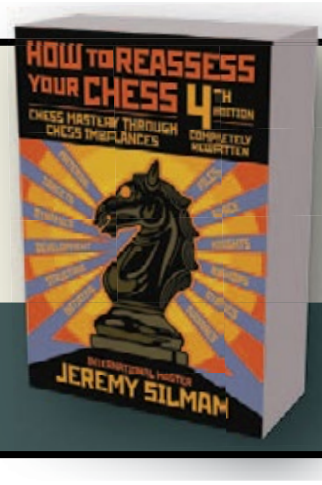
1.d4!

I think this is a logical choice against Shirov.

After 1.e4 I had real difficulties finding a good way to play against the Ruy Lopez with ...♗c5, which my opponent has played a lot recently. For now it seems to me that 1...e5! is a very good move that scares a lot of 1.e4 players, who therefore go for 1.d4.

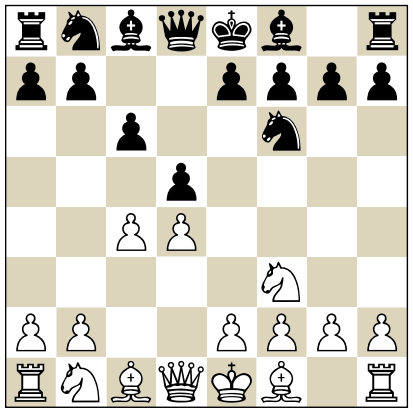
1...d5

I was also expecting the author of *Fire on Board* (one of my favourite books btw!) to create some fire on the board by playing the Grünfeld, but instead he goes for the Semi-Slav. I think Alexey usually does not mind draws if he has the black pieces, even against low rated

JEREMY SILMAN's MASTERPIECE
COMPLETELY REWRITTEN
"The Rolls Royce of instructive chess books" John Watson
"The all-new 4th edition is better than ever!" Joel Benjamin
NEW!
SILES PRESS
658 pages • € 29.90 • www.newinchess.com


players, like in the last round of the tournament where Grandelius made an easy draw against him with white.

2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6

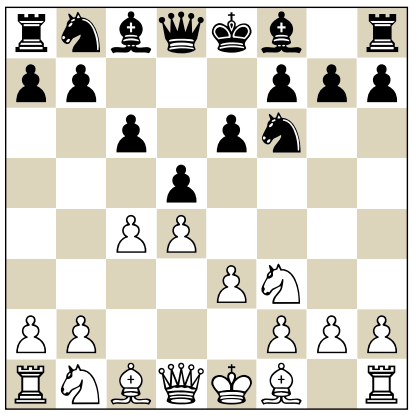


4.e3

I wanted to get these kinds of quiet positions that day, so I just protected my c4 pawn and continued developing.

Against 'Mr. Fire on Board' I did not even consider going 4.♘c3 e6 5.♗g5 h6 6.♗h4. Well, you may call me a coward, but who knows? Maybe I made the right choice.

4...e6



5.b3

I wanted to be able to recapture on c4 with the pawn.

Against Anish Giri in the first round I went for 5.♘c3 ♘bd7 6.♕c2 ♗d6 7.b3 (interesting is 7.g4, just to change the character of the position. Although objectively it may not be the best, since 7...h6 seems to leave White overextended) 7...0-0 8.♗e2, but he equalized easily after 8...e5!? 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.♘b5 ♗b4+ 11.♗d2 ♗xd2+ 12.♘xd2 a6 13.dxe5 ♘xe5 14.♘d4 ♗g4, etc. I think 7.b3 tends to be drawish.

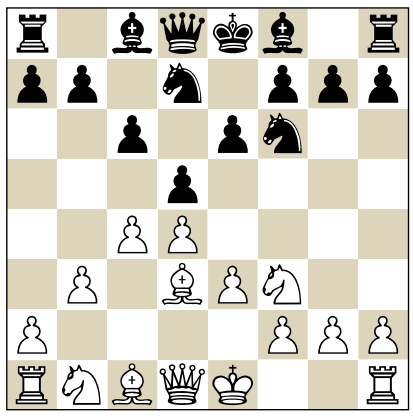
5...♘bd7 6.♗d3

NEW IN CHESS

Wesley So goes over his game with Jonny Hector (invisible) and Nils Grandelius. 'This was indeed the shortest tournament I have ever played.'

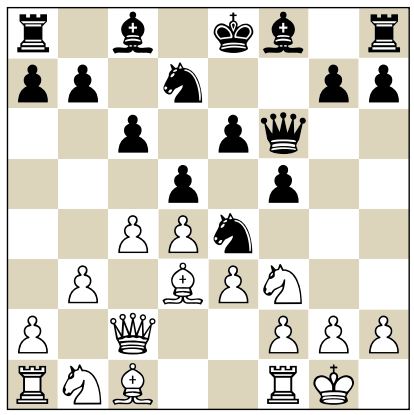
I consider this to be the most accurate move in the position. Wang Hao played it against Alexey at the recent Tata Steel Tournament, in the game that my preparation was based on.

White usually goes 6.♗b2, but after 6...♘e4 7.♗d3 f5 8.0-0 ♕f6!? White has to lose a tempo to achieve the desirable exchange of the dark-squared bishops by ♗a3, since he has already played ♗b2.



6...♗d6

I was expecting 6...♘e4 7.0-0 f5, when 8.♕c2!? (Wang Hao went for 8.♗a3 but I think my move is more flexible) is what I was intending to play: 8...♕f6 (8...♗d6?! 9.♗a3! ♗xa3 10.♘xa3 was my idea, when Black has wasted time with ...♗d6!), and now:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

A) I don't like 9.♗b2 ♗d6 10.♘c3 0-0 11.♖ac1 g5!, when the bishop on d6 greatly enhances Black's attack on the kingside. In these kinds of Stonewall positions, I think White has to trade the dark-squared bishops;

B) 9.♗a3 – White has no more useful moves, so he trades the bishop – 9...♗xa3 10.♘xa3 0-0 11.♖ac1 g5 12.♘b1 ♕h6 13.♘c3 g4 14.♘d2 ♘df6 15.♘e2 ♗d7 16.b4, and White's position is easier to play. Black's attack is nothing without the dark-squared bishops.

I prepared for 6...dxc4 7.bxc4 e5 8.♘bd2 as well, when I think White is better due to his control of the centre after 0-0, ♕c2 and ♗b2.

7.♗b2

I have to prevent his ...e6-e5 break.

NEW!

ChessBase Tutorials #04: Indian Openings

Every game starts with the opening – and sometimes it also ends there! But that need not happen.
With ChessBase Tutorials you do not need to spend a lot of time to rapidly master things. “Openings # 04: Indian Openings” (1.d4 Nf6) is the fourth in a series of five volumes dealing with the fundamentals of opening play in chess.
In it, experienced tournament players and experts in each specific opening will teach you what you absolutely have to know about the King’s Indian, Nimzo Indian, Queen’s Indian, and Bogo Indian. Moreover, the Benko Gambit, Budapest Gambit, Benoni and Modern Benoni, and even 1d4 e5 is covered. Which basic plans does each side follow? How are these put into operation and for which traps do you need to be on the lookout? In 24 video lectures with a total running time of over 5 hours, grandmasters Daniel King, Igor Stohl, Lars Schandorff and others will acquaint you with the basics of the various systems and give you valuable recommendations as to what to play.
Booklet + DVD.

29,90 €

Viktor Bologan: Beating the Sicilian Vol. 1

In the Sicilian Defence White understands that Black will not be a patient lamb but will try to get at him at the very first opportunity. For those who are ready to take on the challenge and plunge into the wonderful world of combinations, attacks and counter-attacks, this DVD is designed for you. In the first volume of the Open Sicilian for White we present all black reactions to 2...Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4. This includes the Sveshnikov/Cheliabinsk Variation, the Rauzer Attack, the Maroczy Bind and a few other minor side lines. The approach is typical for Bologan’s DVDs, as he tries to describe in a compact format plans and reactions from White’s point of view. With the help of this DVD one can forget about fears concerning the tons of theory in the Open Sicilian and can get straight into the real fight! Video running time: 6 hours **29,90 €**

Andrew Martin: First steps in attack

This new series for ChessBase is aimed at players below 2200. The idea of the series is to provide a basic grounding on a variety of subjects, which will assist general all-round improvement. On ‘First Steps in Attack’, Andrew Martin treats the viewer to a selection of classic attacking games and lays out a foundation course in the art of attack. Key thinking points reinforce the analysis and the games. The DVD is designed to be as easy to understand as possible.

19,90 €

Sam Collins: Know the Terrain Volume 2: The Capablanca Structure

What gives strong players the edge over their opponents is not some blockbuster novelty, but a deep understanding of the pawn structures to which their openings lead – an understanding that lasts into the middlegame and endgame, and is transferable between different openings with similar structures. Sam Collins continued his investigation into the most important pawn structures by looking at the "Capablanca Structure" (white pawns on c4 and d4 against black pawns on c6 and e6). White has an undeniable space advantage, but must demonstrate something against Black's solid structure before the position simplifies. The structure commonly arises from the most important openings including the Queen's Gambit Declined, Semi-Slav etc. **27,90 €**

Karsten Müller: Chess endgames 8 - Practical rook endings

Rook endings are amongst the most frequently encountered endgames there are. And it is precisely the area in which the effort put into training is particularly quickly repaid in the form of half and full points, because the knowledge of even a few rules of thumb and methods makes life a great deal easier and provides a guiding light even in complex positions. Like vol.2 in his series, Müller starts starts this course with the endgame of rook against pawn because this particular constellation frequently occurs and can be understood and easily learned with the knowledge of a few techniques such as the bodycheck, intermediate check and the cutting off of the king. When looking at equally common complex rook endings, emphasis is placed on basic techniques (e.g. the umbrella) and rules of thumb (such as “rooks belong behind passed pawns”). **29,90 €**

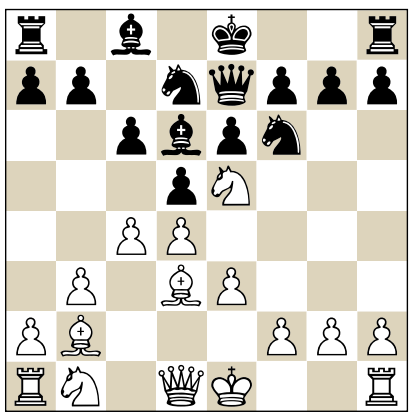
CHESSBASE GMBH · OSTERBEKSTR. 90A · D-22083 HAMBURG · TEL ++(49) 40/639060-12 · FAX ++(49) 40/6301282 · WWW.CHESSBASE.COM · INFO@CHESSBASE.COM
CHESSBASE DEALER: NEW IN CHESS, P. O. Box 1093, NL-1810 KB ALKMAAR, phone (++31)72 51 27 137, fax (++31)72 51 58 234, www.newinchess.com

7...♕e7?

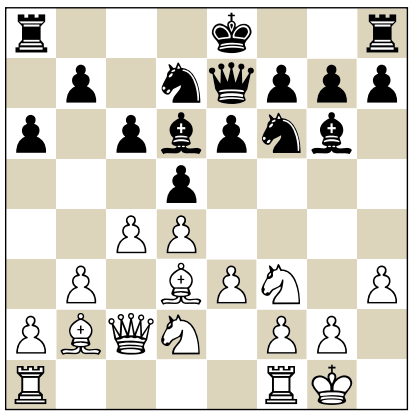
My opponent played this quickly, but I don't like this move. The queen can only be good on e7 here if he can play ...e6-e5, but this never happened in the game. I think he was just bluffing and trying to get me to think that he was still within the comfort of his preparation, which, by the way, is what many players do these days.

Black should probably go for 7...0-0 8.0-0 b6, with a typical Semi-Slav game ahead.

8.♘e5



Already it is quite difficult for Black to find a good move. My knight on e5 is annoying and ...b6 is prevented, so his bishop on c8 will remain inactive for quite a while. Compared to a variation from my favourite ...a6 Slav after 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 a6 5.♗d3 ♗g4 6.h3 ♗h5 7.♘bd2 e6 8.♕c2 ♘bd7 9.0-0 ♗d6 10.b3 ♕e7 11.♗b2 ♗g6,



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

the difference of the activity of the light-squared bishops is enormous.

8...♗b4+

I don't like this move either, since I think he is losing too much time moving his bishop around, but I don't want to be harsh and call all Black's moves dubious.

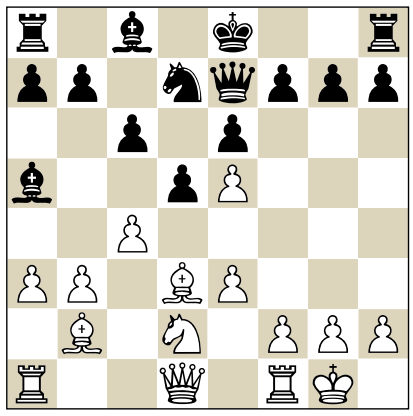
9.♘d2 ♘xe5

9...♗a3 10.♗xa3 ♕xa3 11.f4 also leaves White with the better game.

10.dxe5 ♘d7 11.a3

Preventing ...♗a3 and the exchange of the dark-squared bishops.

11...♗a5 12.0-0



12...f6

If 12...0-0 then 13.f4 and during the game I thought I would be able to give a quick checkmate.

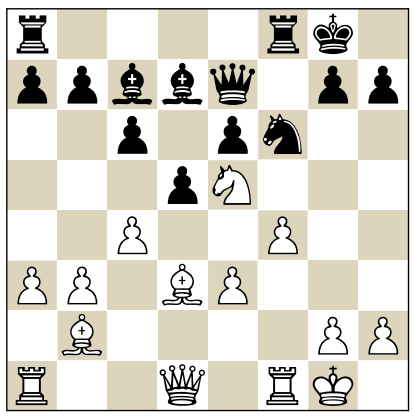
13.♘f3 ♗c7

13...0-0 14.♕c2 f5 (or 14...g6 15.exf6 ♘xf6 16.♘e5) 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.b4 ♗d8 17.♖fc1 was what I was hoping for, and should be easily winning for White, I thought, since the bishop on c8 is awful.

14.exf6 ♘xf6 15.♘e5

15.♕c2 0-0 16.e4 is worse in view of 16...dxe4 17.♗xe4 ♘xe4 18.♕xe4 e5!. Black sacrifices a pawn but activates his light-squared bishop and gets good drawing chances.

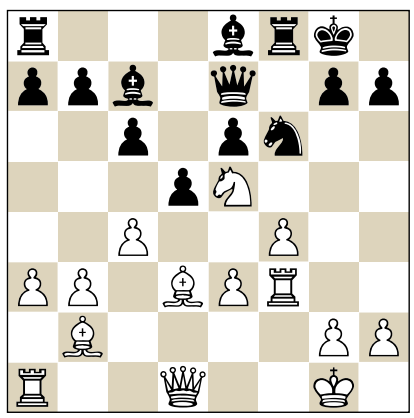
15...0-0 16.f4 ♗d7



17.♖f3

When I went 17.♖f3, I thought 17.♕e1!? ♗e8 18.♕h4 might even be stronger, threatening ♗xh7+ and trying to force a weakness on Black's kingside. But after the simple 18...♗d6! 19.b4 c5 Black is still holding. So now I think 17.♖f3 is not bad.

17...♗e8



18.♕c2

But here 18.♖g3! might be stronger, just to prevent Black's idea of going for opposite-coloured bishops. I looked at 18...♘e4!? (18...♖d8 19.♕c2 is extremely unpleasant for Black – ♘e5-g4 is threatened and g7 and h7 are weak) 19.♗xe4 dxe4 after the game, when White has many attractive options, but the simplest option is 20.♕d4! ♗xe5 21.♕xe5 ♗g6 22.♖d1 (or even 22.♖g5!?, with the idea of just pushing the kingside pawns forward, e.g. 22...♖ad8 – if 22...♖f7 then 23.g4! ♕f6 24.h4 ♕xe5 25.♖xe5 ♖d7 26.♗d4 b6 27.b4, with a large advantage for White – 23.g4! ♕f6 24.h4 ♕xe5 25.♗xe5 ♖d7 26.♔f2 ♗e8 27.♖d1! ♖ff7 28.♗d6, and Black will probably lose this endgame) 22...♖ad8 23.♖xd8 ♖xd8 24.h4! ♖d1+ 25.♔f2 ♕f6 26.♕xf6 gxf6 27.♗xf6 ♔f7 28.♗d4, and White has good chances to win this opposite-coloured bishops ending.

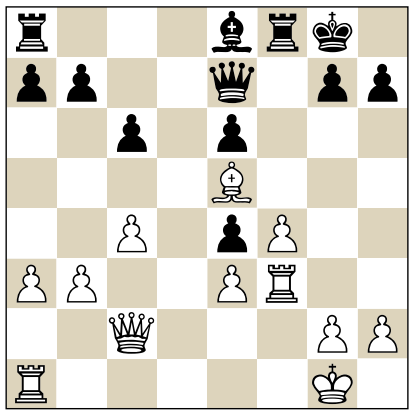
18...♗xe5!

I had underestimated Black's idea of going for opposite-coloured bishops, but luckily I found a good plan on the 21st move.

And by the way, I think going for opposite bishops was Black's only chance, since 18...♖d8?! 19.♖g3 will

give White a decisive attack sooner or later.

19.♗xe5 ♘e4 20.♗xe4 dxe4

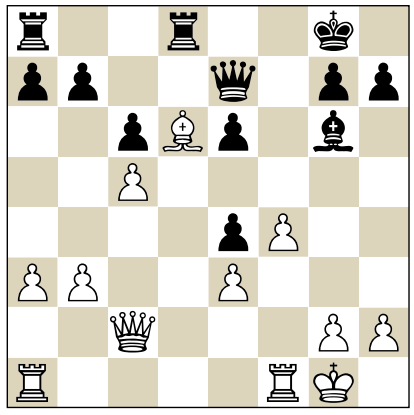


21.♖ff1!

I didn't like 21.♕xe4 ♗g6 22.♕d4 ♖fd8 23.♕b2 ♖d7, when in return for the pawn Black activates his rooks along the d-file, and his bishop on g6 looks quite nice as well.

But a good alternative is 21.♖f2, since 21...♖d8 22.c5 ♖d3?! 23.♗d6 ♕f6 24.♖d1 is clearly better for White after 24...♖xd1+ 25.♕xd1 ♖f7 26.♗e5 ♕e7 27.b4.

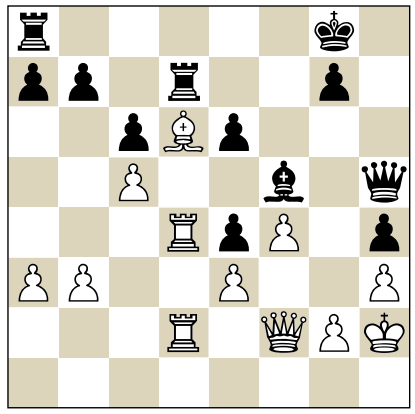
21...♗g6 22.c5! ♖fd8 23.♗d6



White wins the fight for the occupation of the d-file. If Black were to put a rook on d3 first, he would be alright.

23...♕f7 24.♖ad1 ♗f5 25.♖d4 ♖d7 26.h3 h5 27.♖fd1 ♕g6 28.♔h2 h4 29.♕f2 ♕h5 30.♖1d2

Here, although I'm sure Black's defence will be unpleasant, it is not clear to me if I would be able to win after a normal move like 30...♖ad8. But Alexey suddenly blundered.



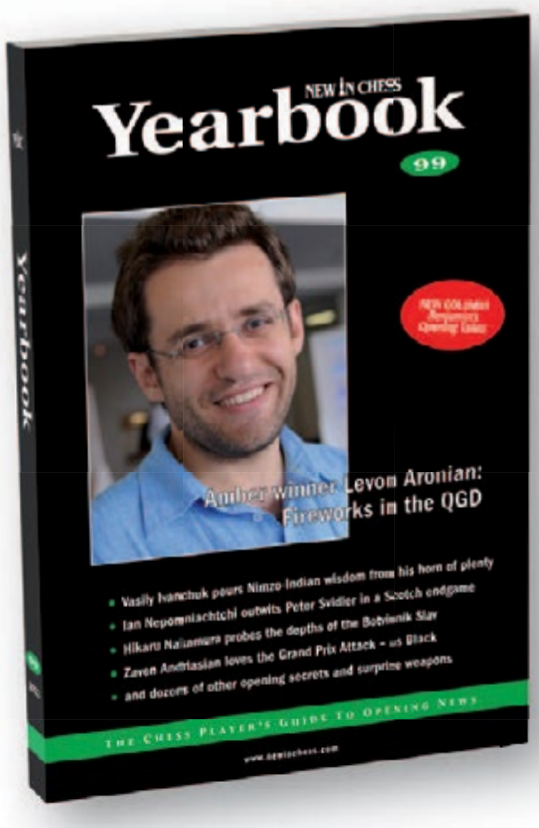
30...♔h7?

Better is 30...♖ad8 31.a4, after which I would try to slowly push my queenside pawns, but I haven't found a way for White to win yet. Black meets b3-b4 with ...a7-a6 and sits tight.

31.♗e5! ♖f7

It turns out that Black's intended 31...♖d5 loses to 32.♖b4, when there is no way to protect b7, and 32...♕f7 33.♕xh4+ ♔g8 34.♖bd4 is just losing, of course. But now I get everything I could want from the position: total control of the d-file, a better

NEW IN CHESS Yearbook 99


NEW IN CHESS
Yearbook
99
Yearbook
Anand winner Levon Aronian:
Fireworks in the QGD
Vasily Ivanchuk pours Nimzo-Indian wisdom from his horn of plenty
Ian Nepomniachtchi outwits Peter Svidler in a Scotch endgame
Hikaru Nakamura probes the depths of the Botvinnik Slav
Zaven Andriasian loves the Grand Prix Attack – as Black
and dozens of other opening secrets and surprise weapons
The Chess Player's Guide To Opening News
www.newinchess.com

With answers to urgent questions like:

- **Where would Ivanchuk put Black's queen's bishop in the Classical Nimzo?**
- **How does Zaven Andriasian defend against the Grand Prix Attack?**
- **What plan has the world's youngest GM discovered in the Catalan Slav?**
- **Is 2.b3 a wise choice against Boris Savchenko's Sicilian?**
- **Which colour does a Hungarian GM prefer in the Grünfeld Hungarian?**
- **How good is Nakamura's 3...f5 against the King's Gambit?**
- **What is Joel Benjamin's all-time favourite novelty?**
- **What has theoretical hotshot Radoslaw Wojtaszek found in the Sicilian?**
- **Why doesn't Anatoly Karpov care to castle in the Caro-Kann?**
- **Why is everybody playing 7...b5 in the Open Catalan these days?**
- **Can Black make it to the endgame against the Perenyi Attack?**
- **Can the clue to the Steinitz French be found in correspondence chess?**
- **How does Ernesto Inarkiev combat Black's ...f7-f5 threat in the King's Indian?**
- **How does Sergey Tiviakov avoid the Najdorf Variation?**
- **What's the latest hook on the Stonewall Dutch?**

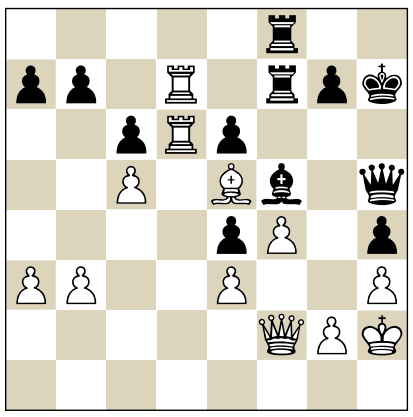
and many more!

For the contents of Yearbook 99 see www.newinchess.com/latestYB

The Chess Player's Guide to Opening News

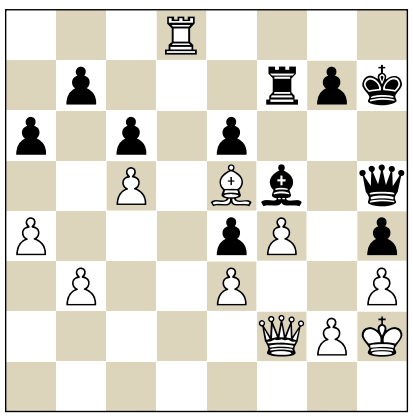
structure, a much better bishop, while the h4 pawn is also weak. In short, I only need a winning plan.

32.♖d7 ♖af8 33.♖2d6



This does not really threaten anything, but I have all the time in the world anyway and don't really need to hurry.

33...♔g8 34.♖xf7 ♖xf7 35.♖d8+ ♔h7 36.a4 a6



I was happy to see this move, because now my king has access to the b6-square! But I think Black is lost in any case.

37.♕e1 ♗g6

Black can only sit back and wait.

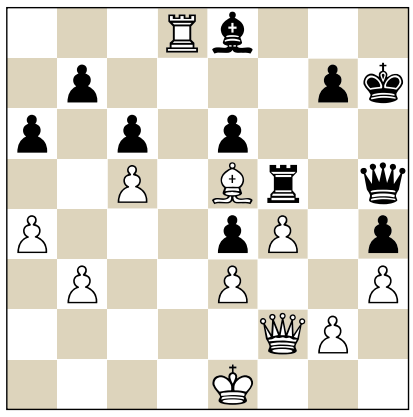
38.♔g1 ♗f5 39.♕f2 ♗g6 40.♔f1 ♖f5 41.♔e1

Black really does not have much to do. Now my idea was to carefully bring my king to b6, which he could not really allow, so he has to go ...a6-a5 at some point, when my king is on c3, after which I thought I could somehow win the pawn on a5 with ♕e1.

41...♗e8

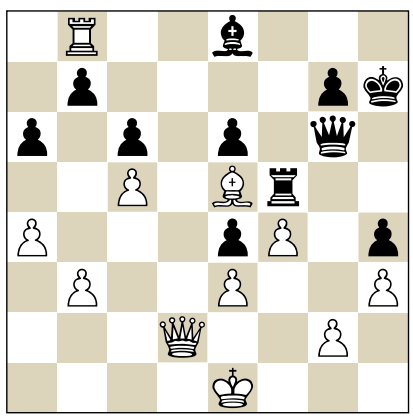
41...♖f7 42.♕d2! ♗f5 43.♖e8 ♕g6 44.g4! hxg3 45.♕d8 also shows that White could win the game by constructive means.

Malmö 2011											cat. XV
					1	2	3	4	5	6		TPR
1	Wesley So	IGM	PHI	2667	*	½	½	1	0	1	3	2685
2	Anish Giri	IGM	NED	2690	½	*	½	½	1	½	3	2681
3	Hans Tikkanen	IGM	SWE	2541	½	½	*	½	1	½	3	2711
4	Alexey Shirov	IGM	ESP	2701	0	½	½	*	½	1	2½	2607
5	Nils Grandelius	IGM	SWE	2547	1	0	0	½	*	½	2	2565
6	Jonny Hector	IGM	SWE	2588	0	½	½	0	½	*	1½	2480



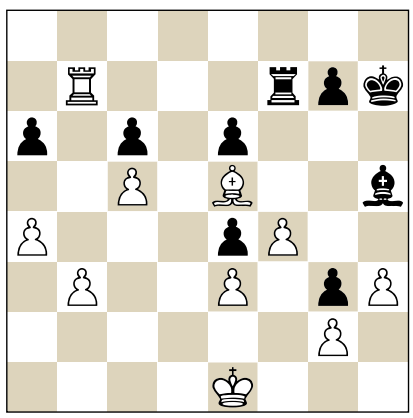
42.♕d2 Not allowing any counterplay! 42.♖b8 ♖f7! was Alexey's trap, which I almost fell into and which gives Black good drawing chances: 43.♖d8 ♖d7 44.♖xd7 ♗xd7 45.♕d2 ♕f7.

42...♕g6 43.♖b8



Now this is just winning.

43...♕g3+ 44.♕f2 ♗h5 45.♖xb7 ♖f7 46.♕xg3 hxg3

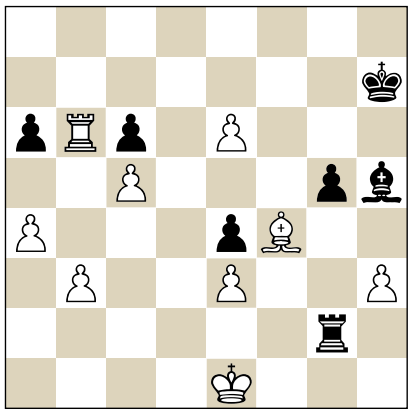


47.♖b6 There was absolutely no point going for a pure opposite-coloured bishops ending, but I think White is also winning after 47.♖xf7 ♗xf7 48.b4 ♗e8 (after 48...♔g8 49.b5! cxb5 50.c6 ♗e8 51.c7 ♗d7 52.axb5 axb5 53.♔d2 the white king will go to b6, picking up the b5 pawn on the way and forcing Black to defend with ...♗c8 and ...♔d7, while the white bishop will pick up the g3 pawn and win on the kingside) 49.♔d2, and White always has b4-b5, creating a passed pawn if the black bishop leaves the a4-a8 diagonal.

47...♖d7 48.♗d6 e5 49.fxe5!

I think the simplest is to gobble up as many black pawns as possible!

49...♖f7 50.e6 ♖f2 51.♗xg3 ♖xg2 52.♗f4 g5



53.♔f1! ♖c2 54.♗xg5 ♖xc5 55.h4 ♔g6 56.e7 ♔f5 57.♖b8 ♖e5 58.♖f8+ ♔g4 59.♔g2

Black resigned.

This was my first time in Malmö, but I really liked it. The weather was great and so was the setting and the venue of the tournament. But after the last round I had the strange feeling that the tournament had been so short that it seemed it hadn't even begun yet! This was indeed the shortest tournament I have ever played. ■

Short Stories

In and out of Africa

In June this year, I played Elo-rated chess in sub-Saharan Africa for the very first time – at the Taca Cuca tournament in Luanda, Angola. It is hard to believe, but it was actually my fourth visit to the country, so I had a pretty good idea what to expect. Prizes, in this oil, gas and diamond rich land, were respectable ($5,000, 4,000, 3,000 etc.) so I was hoping that nobody strong would show up. Given the short-notice, the absence of a website, the prohibitive cost of travelling, and the difficulty of obtaining a visa (not to mention the irksome requirement of a yellow fever vaccination) however, this was by no means as fanciful a wish as it sounds. In the end, my only GM competition was the die-hard Marco Polo, Sergey Tiviakov, as well as Luis Galego and Antonio Fernandes from Portugal. In the women's tournament, Alina l'Ami was rewarded for braving the numerous obstacles by finding herself red-hot favourite to take the $3,000 first prize. Out-rating the opposition by several hundred points, the only real question was whether anyone would take a draw off her. They didn't.

When playing in such countries, it is advantageous to be as phlegmatic as possible: anything can happen and probably will. You can find yourself, like Tiviakov and Galego, waiting 7 hours at the airport for 'visa on arrival' because the relevant documents have not been prepared. You can find yourself, as I did, frantically negotiating against a drastic revision of the published schedule a mere hour before the first round (I gladly compromised by sacrificing the free-days so as to avoid the horrors of double-rounds). However by no means all surprises were unpleasant: the fine buffet-dinner we were treated to by the federation lawyer on the first night was followed by a riotous cruise on his multi-million dollar yacht, and the closing ceremony party with music, dancing and not a few pretty girls, was simply brilliant.

Angola is a very peculiar country, and Luanda, remarkably, is probably the most expensive city in the world. Hotels are exorbitantly priced and you can easily drop $100 or more per head even in a very ordinary restaurant. One bill for five came to well over $1,000 (thankfully I was not paying). Four-wheel-drive vehicles abound in the centre, but one doesn't have to travel far to find shanty towns without electricity or sanitation. The contrasts in wealth are quite staggering.

As to the chess: all I can say is that there is some talent in Angola, but it is chronically undeveloped. Those people that have computers – and they are a minority – don't know how to use them properly because they have no concept of the levels of preparation necessary for competing on the international stage. FIDE, with its ridiculous obsession with arbiters' seminars, doesn't really touch such countries. Anyway, in the end I triumphed with a score of 8/9, conceding draws only to Tiviakov and Zimbabwe's talented Robert Gwaze.

By coincidence, I followed up this victory with my second sub-Saharan African tournament, the Commonwealth Chess Championship, in Johannesburg. The inaugural Commonwealth event took place in Oxford 1951, and in the succeeding patchy history of 60 years, had never once reached Africa (it is usually held in India). The strong line-up, including several GMs, resulted in a record South African turnout of around 660 participants, of all ethnicities, in the various sections – way above expectations. The organiser, Graham Jurgensen, is to be heartily commended for his efforts. Even he would admit that the electronic transmission of the moves (which was highly erratic at best) was sub-standard, but overall, for a first attempt, it was a triumph. Incidentally, Graham had somewhat optimistically contacted the various FIDE structures (CACDEC etc.) for funding, perhaps assuming that their loudly proclaimed 'Year of Africa' actually meant something but, of course, had received not a single penny.

Gallingly, despite scoring 9½/11, I was narrowly denied not only my fourth Commonwealth title but also most of the financial spoils, by the tie-break system – even though I had faced stronger opposition than anyone else. My sincere congratulations go to England teammate Gawain Jones, but while I understand perfectly well the desire of organisers to contrive a winner, it is a great pity when they dispense prizes of substantial value (including a week's holiday for 10(!) in a luxury lodge in the Kruger National Park) according to the discredited pseudo-science of Herr Buchholz. It would be far more intellectually hon-

est to toss a coin or, as we were already in the Emperor's Palace Casino complex, spin a roulette wheel. Better still – why not simply divide the prizes?

There is a real buzz in South African chess right now, in no small part due to Moves for Life, the chess educational programme launched in October 2010 by Jacob Zuma. The President of the Republic fully appreciates the game's merits, having played chess during his 10 years as a political prisoner on Robben Island. Given the programme's current rate of expansion, it would be easy to imagine it having a significant impact in the coming years.

I see Africa as the last great frontier of chess development. Browsing through Gino di Felice's magnificent volumes of historical tournament crosstables it is obvious that Europe and, to a lesser degree, America have been the primary centres for the modern game. In recent decades we have witnessed the extraordinary rise of Asian chess – a process that is still unfolding. Africa, and in particular sub-Saharan Africa, on the other hand, has languished far behind. FIDE was formed in Paris 1924, but it was not until the Sousse, Tunisia Interzonal of 1967 – a whopping 43 years later – that a FIDE event took place on the continent. According to the renowned English scholar H.J.Murray in his monumental *A History of Chess* – still the unsurpassed reference work nearly a century after its first publication in 1913 – North Africa was the main route by which the noble game entered Europe. Alas, the chess history of the rest of this enormous continent is shrouded in darkness. Murray lavishes meticulous attention on chess and its variants in India, Persia, Arabia, China, Korea, Japan and even Kalmykia over nearly 900 pages, but no bright beacon of light is shone south of the Sahara Desert. It is reasonable to suppose that Arab merchants brought the game with them to East Africa and elsewhere, but I just don't know. More likely, what African chess there is had its embryonic beginnings in colonial times.

By the time this article appears I will have given a simultaneous exhibition and lecture in honour of Wole Soyinka, the 1986 Nobel Laureate for Literature, in Abuja, Nigeria. It is anticipated that a major international tournament will take place under his patronage in November of this year. Wole Soyinka was introduced to chess in an unorthodox manner at Government College, Ibadan, but it was not until reaching Leeds University, in the United Kingdom, in the mid 1950s that he learned the moves properly. Like Jacob Zuma he found solace in the game in prison, using it as a tool to retain his mental faculties while being held in solitary confinement during the period 1967-1969. Like many others he followed with fascination the 1972 Fischer-Spassky match and he would later become a personal friend of Boris. He also avidly followed the 1997 Kasparov-Deep Blue encounter, cheering whole-heartedly for Garry, but sagely betting on the machine. Wole Soyinka is a hugely respected figure in Nigeria and it is hoped that his involvement with chess will lead to a renaissance there.

'Like Jacob Zuma, Wole Soyinka found solace in the game in prison, using it as a tool to retain his mental faculties while in solitary confinement.'

I am deeply fond of Africa, despite all its problems, and am passionate about the game of chess. We have an administration that pays lip-service to supporting the continent, but in practice has tended to blithely ignore the place, except in election years. Then, unfortunately, they stop at nothing.

One example of the downright dishonesty and duplicity of the FIDE incumbents was the so-called 'FIDE Africa Seminar' held in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2010, which in reality was nothing more than a merry junket for Kirsan supporters, or would-be supporters. Those known to oppose Kirsan, such as Dr. Aguinaldo Jaime from Angola, were prevented from attending this 'FIDE' event – in flagrant violation of the FIDE statutes, which expressly prohibit discrimination on political grounds. Belatedly realising that they might be on a legal sticky wicket, FIDE subsequently attempted to blandly rename the event on its website as 'The Administrators Seminar for the Leaders of African Chess Federations' – carefully removing the incriminating word 'FIDE'. They might even have got away with this blatant lie had they not then incompetently published photographs of delegates sitting under the 'FIDE Africa Seminar' banner with turncoat Geoffrey Borg giving a power-point presentation under Kirsan's 'One World, One Vision' logo. As compelling evidence of an abuse of office it's hard to beat. ■

Houdini and the others

Gone are the days when Fritz and Rybka made guest appearances in most of the GM analysis that reached us. A whole new generation of engines have come to the fore with names like Firebird, Stockfish or Critter. The absolute favourite among the very best is now Houdini, which currently occupies first place in the IPON world rankings. It's the preferred choice of World Champion Vishy Anand. Garry Kasparov says it's the number one engine he relies on and in the 'Just Checking' column in this issue, Wesley So calls Bobby Fischer his favourite player of all time 'because I analysed his games and found they have great similarity with Houdini'. In the face of such praise we asked the opinion of French top grandmaster and mathematician **Maxime Vachier-Lagrave.**

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave

I still remember the (not so distant) days when the main evolution you could expect in chess software was a Fritz 5 update to Fritz 5.32 or Junior 6 to Deep Junior 6 ☺. Obviously, each new version improved the level of the engines a bit, but to my mind the general structure of the programmes remained largely the same. This routine was busted in 2006 with the appearance of Rybka at the highest level. Its main added value compared to the other available engines was an improved assessment function, which made it much more pleasant and actually more efficient to work with. It was simply much more natural and better adapted to the human way of thinking. Let me give only one example, and let's not even think about positions with material imbalance or lack of compensation: just try to analyse from scratch the tabiya of the Berlin Defence with one of these earlier engines and they will tell you that White is slightly better with an evaluation of +1.5. Better grab a chessboard, which is what I did, in fact.

Then, from 2008 onwards, things evolved even faster, when new engines started to spread all over the Net. It's hard to say what the starting point was, but they were soon heavily discussed among grandmasters, on Internet forums, on Playchess or ICC... They weren't only new, which was part of their attractiveness, but they were open source freeware, which meant that a few clicks were enough to get the opportunity to test them. And once you did you realized how strong this software was.

To be truthful, I had hardly heard

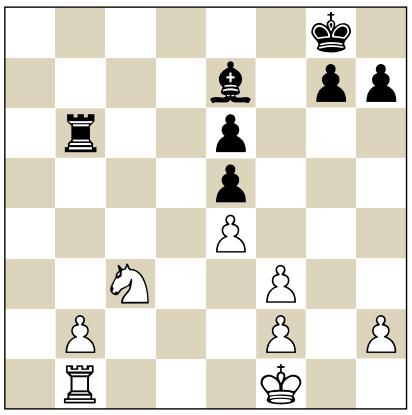
of Stockfish when it appeared, and had hardly ever used it. It is evidently the fastest software around, but to my mind, its assessment function is sometimes back to slightly inhuman. Of course, this is also a matter of taste, for if every grandmaster assessed every position the same way, chess would become pretty boring. This is the most instructive reasoning when analysing a position.

Firebird (or Fire, as it is called now – I personally think Firebird sounds more poetic) was at the time the latest newborn in the IPPOLIT series. Those engines appeared in a weird way, to say the least, as they became available on an anonymous website, leaving their programmer(s) unknown, which, as far as I know, they still are. I actually tried Robbolito, from the same series, for a short period of time, but it had one huge and irreversible defect: it used only one processor. Nowadays standards are different and you find 8-core personal computers in every computer shop. I think most grandmasters are using at least such machines. After all, we have all heard about the cluster that Topalov used for the world championship match against Anand. It obviously speeds up the engine and offers the opportunity to get to greater depths, which is why I guess most GMs are trying to improve their monitoring. One clue is the amazing level of preparation of the Candidates in Kazan!

Back to Firebird. While I was using it, I was simply amazed by the number of times that I would agree with its evaluation – wrongfully so, I guess, as we will see later ☺. Generally speaking, it also advises its users to go for sharp and dynamic play whenever possible, and although this sometimes backfires, it is fun material to train with.

In comparison, the latest newborn, Houdini, is a bit depressing, simply because of this 'equation': the truth x 2 = 1. From the discussions I have had, I can only guess that most top players are now using it as their main engine. The really astonishing thing is how resourceful it is. And contrary to the other engines it can, even in what look like really difficult positions, give an equal assessment, which it backs up with the moves it plays afterwards, which is simply amazing. For instance, it can back up many pawn sacrifices with what look like (at least to me, but I don't think I will be the only one) wild cases of compensation and then prove its point thanks to the 28/30-ply or an even greater depth it can get to. In fact, it makes it a bit of a headache to prepare with white, seeing that in some critical and seemingly interesting positions all its top suggestions suddenly end in a far from forced perpetual. Fortunately, this doesn't happen too often.

As a first, quite convincing example of its strength, we'll have a look at the first game of the match Mamedyarov-Gelfand, after Black's 31st move.



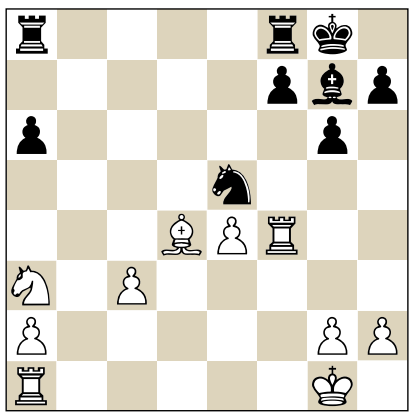
32.♔e2

Fire 1.31 x64: 1) 32.♘a2 ♖b3 33.♘c1 ♖xf3 34.♔g2 ♖f8 35.♘d3 ♗d6 36.♖a1 ♔f7 37.♖a7+ ♔f6 38.♖d7 ♗e7 39.♘xe5 ♔xe5 40.♖xe7 h5 41.♖xg7 ♔xe4 42.♖g5 ♖h8 43.f3+ ♔f4 44.♖c5 ♖b8 45.♖c4+ ♔e3 0.44/28; Fire 1.31 x64: 2) 32.b3 ♔f7 33.♘d1 h5 34.♘e3 ♔f6 35.♔g2 ♖b8 36.♘c2 0.43/29; Fire 1.31 x64: 3) 32.♘e2 ♗a3 33.b3 ♔f7 34.♘c3 ♗e7 35.♘d1 h5 36.♘e3 ♔f6 37.♔g2 ♖b8 38.♘c2 0.43/29; Fire 1.31 x64: 4) 32.♔e2 ♖b3 33.♔d3 h5 34.♔c2 ♖b8 35.♔d2 ♖b3 36.♔d3 ♔f7 37.♔c2 ♖b7 38.♘d1 ♔f6 39.♘e3 ♗c5 40.♖a1 0.33/28; Houdini 1.5 x64: 1) 32.♘a2 ♖b3 33.♘c1 ♖xf3 34.♔g2 ♖f8 35.♘d3 ♗d6 36.♖a1 ♔f7 37.♖a7+ ♔f6 38.♖d7 ♗e7 39.♘xe5 ♔xe5 40.♖xe7 h5 41.♖xg7 ♔xe4 42.♖g5 ♖b8 43.♖xh5 ♖xb2 44.h4 ♔f4 45.♖h7 ♖b3 46.h5 ♔g5 47.h6 ♔g6 48.♖h8 0.27/29; Houdini 1.5 x64: 2) 32.b3 ♔f7 33.♔g2 ♔f6 34.♘d1 h5 35.♘e3 ♗c5 36.♘c4 ♖b8 37.♔g3 g5 38.♔g2 ♗e7 39.♘e3 ♗c5 40.♔h3 ♖b5 41.♔g3 ♖b8 42.♔g2 ♔e7 43.♔g3 ♔f6 44.♔g2 0.18/29; Houdini 1.5 x64: 3) 32.♘e2 ♗a3 33.b3 ♔f7 34.♔g2 ♖b8 35.♘g3 ♔f6 36.♘f1 h5 37.♘d2 ♗c5 38.♘c4 g5 39.♔g3 ♖b7 40.h3 ♖b4 41.♔g2 ♖b8 42.♘e3 ♔f7 43.♔g3 ♔g6 44.♔g2 ♔f6 45.♔g3 ♖b7 46.♔g2 ♖b8 47.♔g3 0.18/29; Houdini 1.5 x64: 4) 32.♔e2 ♖b3 33.♔d2 ♔f8 34.♔c2 ♖b7 35.♔d3 ♗c5 36.♘d1 ♔e7 37.b3 ♖d7+ 38.♔e2 ♖a7 39.♔f1 ♖d7 40.♘e3 ♖d2 41.h3 ♗d4 42.♖c1 ♔d7 0.13/29; Stockfish 2.1.1 JA 64bit: 1) 32.b3 ♔f7 33.♘d1 ♖b8 34.♘e3 ♗c5 35.♘c2 ♖a8 36.b4 ♗b6 37.♘e3 ♖a2 38.b5 ♔e7 39.h4 ♔d7 40.h5 ♔c7 41.♖c1+ ♔d7 42.♘g4 ♗d4 43.♖d1 ♔c7 44.f4 ♔b6 45.fxe5 ♖a4 46.♔g2 ♔xb5 47.f4 ♗c5 0.60/30; Stockfish 2.1.1 JA 64bit: 2) 32.♘a2 ♖b3 33.♘c1 ♖xf3 34.♔g2 ♖f4 35.b4 ♖xe4 36.b5 ♗d6 37.b6 ♖g4+ 38.♔f1 ♖c4 39.b7 ♗b8 40.♘d3 e4 41.♘b4 ♗xh2 42.♘a6 ♔f7 43.♔g2 ♗d6 44.b8♕ ♗xb8 45.♘xb8 h5 46.♖b7+ ♔g6 47.♖b6 h4 48.♖xe6+ ♔f5 49.♖e8 ♖c7 50.♘a6 ♖c4 0.56/29; Stockfish 2.1.1 JA 64bit: 3) 32.♘e2 ♗a3 33.b3 ♔f7 34.♘c3 ♖b7 35.♘d1 ♗c5 36.♘e3 ♔e7 37.♔e2 ♖a7 38.♘c4 ♗d4 39.♔d3 ♖d7 40.b4 ♗xf2+ 41.♔e2 ♗d4 42.b5 ♖d8 43.b6 ♔d7 44.b7 ♖b8 45.♘a5 g5 46.♔d3 ♔c7 47.♖c1+ ♔d7 48.h3 0.40/30; Stockfish 2.1.1 JA 64bit: 4) 32.♔e2 ♖b3 33.♔d1 ♔f7 34.♔c2 ♖b8 35.♘d1 ♗c5 36.♘e3 h5 37.b3 ♔f6 38.♔d3 g5 39.♘c4 ♗xf2 40.b4 ♖d8+ 41.♔e2 ♗d4 42.b5 ♖c8 43.♔d3 ♖d8 44.♔c2 ♔e7 45.b6 ♔d7 0.28/30

While the different engines have similar ideas about White's best moves,

they fail to agree on the assessment, with Stockfish giving +0.6,d=30, Firebird +0.45,d=28 and Houdini 'only' a slight +0.3 edge at depth 29. In fact, despite White being a safe pawn up, this position already is very close to a draw, as White will find it hard to support his b-pawn without his king, while at the same time keeping his kingside pawns. This may not be completely safe, but at least it will slow down Black's counterplay long enough.

One can have a positive mind and argue that this assessment tends to favour imaginative minds, people who will find not-so-obvious ways to keep the game going, and perhaps there's some truth in that. Especially as blindly following the top recommendations of the program could actually mean flying too close to the sun, as some of these 'equal' positions are actually too difficult to handle if you don't have a clear picture of what to do. For instance, have a look at the first game of the match Aronian-Grischuk, after Black's 23rd move.



24.♖b1

Houdini 1.5 x64: 1) 24.♖b1 ♖ac8 25.♖b7 ♖b8 26.♖xb8 ♖xb8 27.♖f2 ♖d8 28.♖c2 h5 29.h3 ♖c8 30.♖d2 ♘d7 31.♖d1 ♘c5 32.e5 ♘e4 33.♖d3 ♘c5 34.♖f3 ♘d7 0.15/25; Houdini 1.5 x64: 2) 24.♘c2 ♖ad8 25.♖b1 ♘c4 26.♖b4 ♖c8 27.♖a4 ♗xd4+ 28.♘xd4 ♘e3 29.♖xa6 ♖xc3 30.♖f3 ♖d3 31.♘c6 ♖e8 32.e5 ♖d1+ 33.♔f2 ♘g4+ 34.♔g3 ♘xe5 35.♘xe5 ♖xe5 36.♖a8+ ♔g7 37.♖a7 ♖g5+ 38.♔h4 ♖d4+ 39.♔h3 ♖h5+ 40.♔g3 ♖g5+ 41.♔f2 ♖d2+ 42.♔e3 ♖gxg2 43.♖fxf7+ ♔h6 44.♖xh7+ ♔g5 45.♖a5+ ♔f6 46.♖a6+ ♔e5 47.♖e7+ ♔f5 48.♖f7+ ♔e5 49.a4 ♖ge2+ 0.07/25; Houdini 1.5 x64: 3) 24.♖af1 ♖ad8 25.♘c2 ♘c4 26.♖4f2 ♖d7 27.♖b1 ♖e8 28.♖b4 ♖c7 29.♖e2 ♖cc8 30.♖a4 ♘d6 31.♖xa6 ♖xe4 32.♔f2 ♖f4+ 33.♔e3 ♖e4+ 34.♔d3 ♖xe2 35.♔xe2 ♘e4 36.c4 ♖xc4 37.♖a8+ ♗f8 38.♔d3 0.06/25; Houdini 1.5 x64: 4) 24.♖ff1 ♖ac8 25.♖ab1 ♘d3 26.♖f3 ♘e5 27.♖e3 ♖fe8 28.g3 ♘g4 29.♖e2 f5 30.♖be1 ♘e5 31.♗xe5 ♖xe5 32.exf5 ♖xf5 33.♘b1 ♗xc3 34.♘xc3 ♖xc3 35.♖d2 ♖f7 36.♖e6 a5 37.♖e5 a4 38.♔g2 ♔g7 39.♖e6 a3 0.02/25; Fire 1.31 x64: 1) 24.♖b1 ♖ac8 25.♖b7 ♖b8 26.♖xb8 ♖xb8 27.♖f2 ♖e8 28.♖e2 ♘d3 29.♘c4 ♘f4 30.♖e3 ♖c8 31.♘d6 ♗xd4 32.cxd4 ♖c2 33.♔f1 ♘xg2 34.♖e2 ♖c6 35.♔xg2 ♖xd6 36.d5 0.27/24; Fire 1.31 x64: 2) 24.♘c2 ♖ad8 25.♖b1 ♘c4 0.20/24; Fire 1.31 x64: 3) 24.♖d1 ♖ab8 25.g3 ♖fe8 26.♖f2 ♗f8 27.♘c2 ♘c4 28.♖e1 a5 29.♔g2 ♖e6 0.11/24; Fire 1.31 x64: 4) 24.♖ff1 ♖fc8 25.♘c2 ♘d3 26.♘e3 ♖e8 27.♖ad1 ♘b2 28.♖b1 ♖xe4 29.♘d5 ♘c4 30.♘f6+ ♗xf6 31.♖xf6 ♖e6 32.♔f2 ♖c8 33.g4 ♖xf6+ 34.♗xf6 ♔f8 35.g5 ♖e8 0.10/24; Stockfish 2.1.1 JA 64bit: 1) 24.♘c2 ♘c6 25.♗f6 ♖fe8 26.♖af1 ♖a7 27.♗xg7 ♔xg7 28.♖d1 ♖b7 29.♘e3 ♖b2 30.♖f2 ♖xf2 31.♔xf2 ♖xe4 32.♖d6 ♖e6 33.♖xe6 fxe6 34.♔f3 ♔f6 35.♔e4 ♔e7 36.♘c4 ♔f6 37.h3 g5 0.36/25; Stockfish 2.1.1 JA 64bit: 2) 24.♖b1 ♖ac8 25.♖b7 ♖b8 26.♖b3 ♖bc8 27.♖f1 ♘d3 28.♖b7 ♘c5 29.♗xc5 ♖xc5 30.♘b1 ♗e5 0.36/25; Stockfish 2.1.1 JA 64bit: 3) 24.♖ff1 ♖ac8 25.♖ab1 ♘d7 26.♖b7 ♘c5 27.♖e7 ♘e6 28.♗xg7 ♔xg7 29.c4 ♖cd8 30.♖a7 ♘c5 31.♘c2 ♘xe4 32.♖xa6 ♖c8 33.♘e3 ♖a8 34.♖xa8 0.32/25; Stockfish 2.1.1 JA 64bit: 4) 24.♖af1 ♖ac8 25.♘c2 ♘d3 26.♖4f3 ♗xd4+ 27.cxd4 ♖xc2 28.♖xd3 ♖xa2 29.♖dd1 ♖e8 30.e5 ♖d8 31.♖f2 ♖a5 32.♖e2 ♖ad5 33.♖e4 a5 34.♔f2 a4 35.♔e2 ♖b5 36.♖e3 ♔f8 37.♖a3 0.28/25

> 'Blindly following the top recommendations of the program could actually mean flying too close to the sun.'

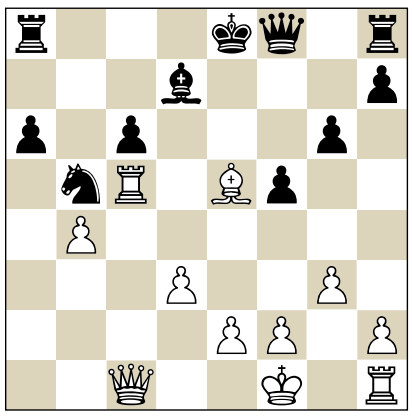
It was obvious that Grischuk was still in his preparation here. But it was not so obvious why he had entered such a pawn-down position, which seems to give Black no prospects at all. But here, and as I said, this is almost always the case, we are not getting from over-optimistic to pessimistic, but to the *truth*. Stockfish assesses this position as slightly but stably better for White (more or less +0.3-0.4 for the top four moves, depth 25). Firebird is already less optimistic, but at least thinks that White is pressing, and gives between +0.1-0.3,d=24). But Houdini clearly assesses all top lines as almost equal, with its top line 24.♖ab1 at +0.15, d=25. One important detail to mention here is that the engines once again basically give the same moves, with only some slight variations in the move order. I can only guess that Houdini was the final decider for Grischuk to go into this variation. For once, that was the wrong approach, as after a few less-than-perfect moves Black was already in quite big trouble, with a position still without perspective, in which he could only hope to get a draw after a long torture. In fact, this is what finally happened, after a kind of miracle, to put it mildly.

To my mind Houdini is actually most efficient when used for GM chess, as its defensive abilities are reminiscent of top-level play, where getting an edge and playing very well afterwards is sometimes just not enough. Still, I very much doubt that

blindly following Houdini's recommendations will help you much if you next have to start thinking over the board. One idea that I like myself is to mix the ideas of engines with those of your own brain, which can still uncover brilliant ideas that would remain hidden if you only relied on the computer (at least, until Tablebases 32 in 2180). Therefore I would recommend looking for the engine that fits in best with your positional feeling. Not that it should give erroneous assessments overall, but it should be able to guide you in the positions in which you understand better what is going on and that you are therefore willing to play – the things you understand when you are in tournament play, usually all by yourself. It's also important to understand that chess is a complicated enough game, so until the year 2180, there will still be some positions the engine will not get, no matter how powerful its assessment function or its speed is getting, let's say, to depth 50. And well, even when Tablebases 32 is finally out, I hardly think we will be expected to memorize it all.

But today is 2011, and as there's still a long time ahead, all engines still have some weaknesses, some of which I probably didn't even discover myself yet.

Let me conclude with this exciting position from the second game of the match Gelfand-Grischuk, after Black's 21st move.



22.♗xh8

Houdini 1.5 x64: 1) 22.♕c4 h5 23.♖xc6 ♗xc6 24.♕xc6+ ♔e7 25.♔g2 ♕e8 (Fire 1.31 x64: 25^ ♕e8 26.♕c5+ ♔e6 27.e4 fxe4 28.dxe4 ♕d7 29.♕b6+ ♘d6 30.♗xh8 ♖xh8 31.♖d1 ♖c8 32.♖d5 ♖c4 33.♕b8 ♖xe4 34.♕g8+ ♔e7 35.♕xg6 ♕e6 36.♕xh5 ♔d7 37.♕h7+ ♕e7 38.♕xe7+ ♔xe7 39.♖a5 ♖xb4 40.♖xa6 ♖b5 41.h4 ♘e4 42.h5 ♖xh5 43.g4 ♖h8 -0.15/20) 26.♕c5+ ♔e6 27.e4 fxe4 28.dxe4 ♕d7 29.♕b6+ ♘d6

30.♗xh8 ♖xh8 31.♖d1 ♖c8 32.♖d5 ♖c4 33.♕b8 ♖c6 34.♕h8 ♕c7 35.♖g5 ♕f7 36.♖d5 ♕c7 37.♖g5 0.00/24; Houdini 1.5 x64: 2) 22.♗xh8 ♕xh8 23.h4 h5 24.♔g2 ♔f7 25.♖e1 ♘d4 26.♕c3 ♗e6 27.f3 ♕d8 28.e3 ♘b5 29.♕d2 ♕d6 30.♕c2 ♗d7 31.d4 ♖e8 32.♕a2+ ♔g7 33.♕xa6 ♘c7 34.♕d3 ♘d5 35.♕d2 ♖a8 -0.12/24; Fire 1.31 x64: 22.♕c4 h5 23.♔g2 ♖h6 24.♗f4 ♖h7 25.♖xc6 ♕f7 26.♕c5 ♘d4 27.♕e5+ ♘e6 28.♖b6 h4 29.♖a1 ♔f8 30.♗e3 ♖e8 31.♖bxa6 ♕g7 32.♕xg7+ ♔xg7 33.♖d6 -0.10/22; Fire 1.31 x64: 22.♗xh8 ♕xh8 23.♔g2 ♔f7 24.h4 h5 25.♖e1 ♘d4 26.♕c3 ♕f6 27.e3 ♘b5 28.♕c2 ♔g7 29.♖c1 ♗e6 30.f3 ♗d7 -0.38/22; Stockfish 2.1.1 JA 64bit: 1) 22.♕c4 ♕g8 23.♔g2 h5 24.♗xh8 ♕xh8 25.♖xc6 ♗xc6+ 26.♕xc6+ ♔f7 27.♕b7+ 0.00/23; Stockfish 2.1.1 JA 64bit: 2) 22.♖xc6 ♖g8 23.♖c5 g5 24.h4 g4 25.h5 ♕f7 26.♗b2 ♔d8 27.♕h6 ♗e6 28.♔e1 ♖c8 29.♔d2 ♖xc5 30.bxc5 ♔c7 31.♖a1 ♖a8 32.♗g7 ♔b7 33.♔e1 ♖c8 34.d4 ♖c7 35.e3 ♕d7 36.♗e5 ♕c6 -0.20/28

> 'And well, even when Tablebases 32 is finally out, I hardly think we will be expected to memorize it all.'

The position obviously looks double-edged, and the suggestion of an improvement over 22.♗xh8 was soon offered by many people with 22.♕c4, with the idea that 22...♖g8 fails to 23.♗f6. Houdini very quickly claims that this is =0.00, while Stockfish needs to go to depth 26 to say the same – at least its fastness is quite useful in such a position -, and it can be a headache to understand without a computer why 22...♔d8 to avoid a forced draw is not really avoiding it. The reason is in fact the brilliantly calm 23.♔g2 (and not 23.♗xh8 which Houdini claims is also OK. This might be true, but I'd rather be Black there: White is solid but has no real prospects, and the material imbalance seems to slightly favour Black who after all has a solid king), followed by 24.♖a1 getting a very strong attack which somehow ends in a draw. And then, Firebird says – with a lower depth, true – that Black can try to play on with 22...h5, and keeps on saying so even after Houdini's first line. It seems that it enjoys the ♘ vs 3♙ imbalance we're getting, but this time for really no reason as it looks terribly dangerous.

Food for (deeper) thought, but this whole position gives a hint of how strong engines can be and still how difficult it can be, even for them, not to get lost along with us humans ☺ ■

Osip Bernstein

Osip Samoilovich Bernstein was born into a prosperous Jewish family in Zhitomir, Ukraine, on September 20, 1882. When the young man finished school the family council decided that Osip would continue his studies at university. Although he had already achieved obvious successes at chess, the question of whether to make the game his profession didn't arise. The goal was clear: get a higher education abroad, preferably in Germany.

On his way to Germany Osip made a stop in Warsaw, where he took on the city's strongest players, beating the experienced Szymon Winawer. Bernstein was supposed to enrol in the Polytechnical Institute in Hanover, but he moved to Berlin and started studying law. He continued playing chess, winning several tournaments, and became a maestro.

The successes came one after another. In 1902 he won a strong anniversary tournament. A German chess magazine wrote: 'Bernstein has covered himself in laurels, as well as our entire union and our editorial office. Despite his young age – he has only just turned 20 – he is our best player and he can proudly look back at the path he has travelled, which is not clouded by failures.' Bernstein's achievements didn't go unnoticed in his homeland. *Shakhmatnoe Obozrenie* wrote: 'The recent string of successes by our talented countryman definitely points to his place among the world masters.'

In 1903 Bernstein took part in the All-Russian Tournament in Kiev, which brought together all the strongest players in Russia. He took second place behind Chigorin, ahead of Schiffers, Rubinstein, Salwe, Znosko-Borovsky, Levitsky, Duz-Khotimirsky and other well-known masters. Bernstein was leading for almost the whole tournament, beating Chigorin as Black in the King's Gambit. He made a terrible opening blunder in his game against Znosko-Borovsky in the 13th round, and Chigorin overtook him. The next day Bernstein lost to the outsider Kalinsky, while Chigorin got a point when Duz-Khotimirsky failed to appear. The question of first place was decided.

Shakhmatnoe Obozrenie noted that 'Mr. Bernstein's play in this tournament is evidence of his enormous talent, but he still needs some serious staying power; with the acquisition of the latter Mr. Bernstein will take his place in the ranks of the world maestros.'

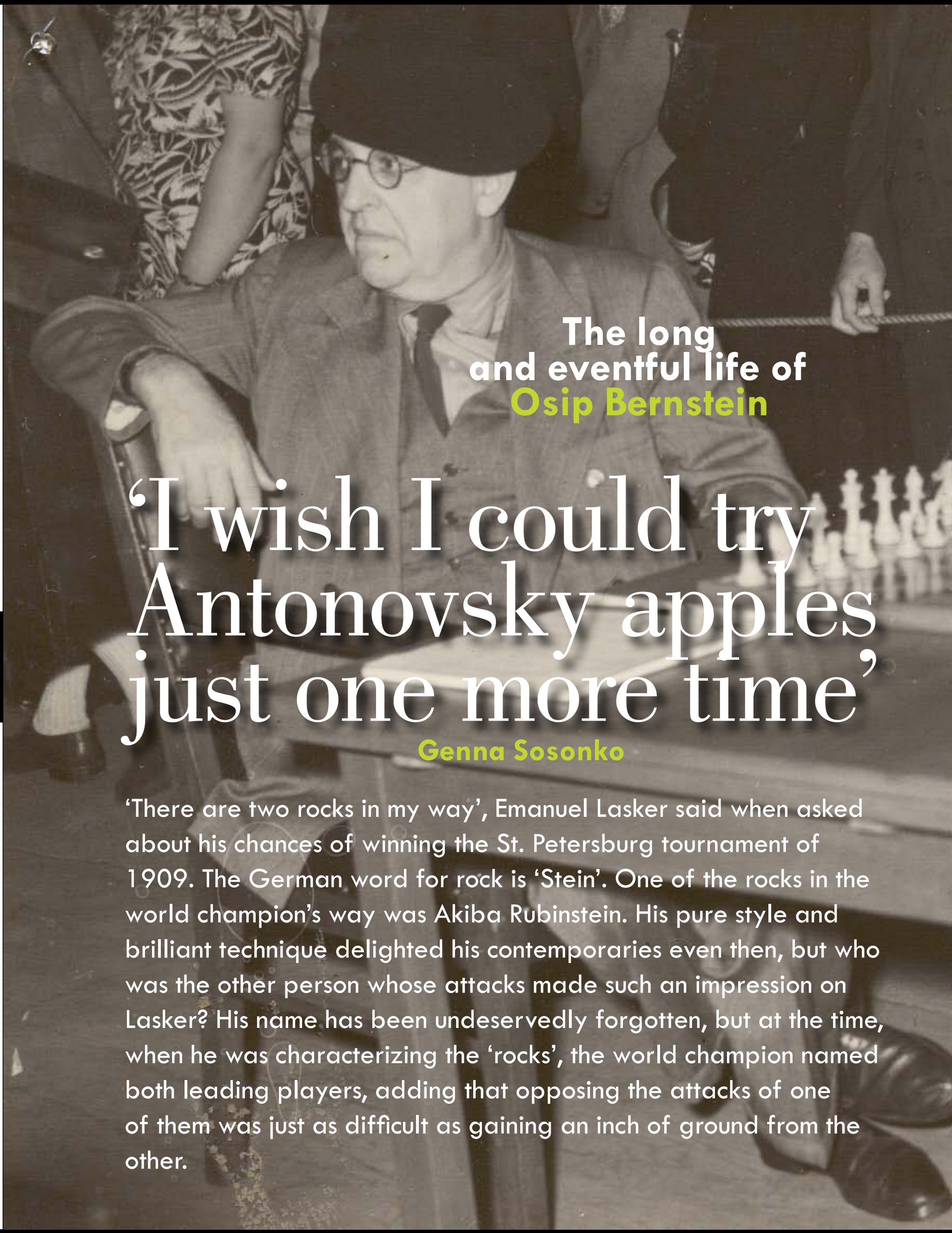
In Berlin Bernstein regularly met with the world champion's namesake. Here's how Edward Lasker saw the young Bernstein: 'This was an unusually pleasant, likeable man. He was tall, slim and very handsome – black hair with a big, wide forehead and lively, expressive eyes. From the moment the name of the young Russian chess player appeared in the pages of the chess magazines I was delighted by the depth and crystal purity of his style.'

Edward Lasker and Osip Bernstein were keen music-lovers and tried not to miss a single concert by the Berlin Symphony Orchestra under the direction of the famous Arthur Nikisch. 'Even if our seats were the cheapest, somewhere behind the orchestra, those were still the most wonderful concerts I ever heard,' Edward Lasker recalled half a century later. Although his education and student life swallowed up almost all of his time, Bernstein played chess occasionally. At Stockholm 1906, Bernstein shared victory with Schlechter, but 1907 was an even more successful year for him, when with Rubinstein he won an impressive marathon at Ostend, and in their individual encounter almost conquered his main rival.

In 1906 Bernstein became a doctor of law at Heidelberg University and returned to Russia. In Moscow he registered as a barrister and opened a practice specializing in issues of international financial law. Bernstein quickly earned a reputation as one of the leading lawyers in that field in Russia. He had many other interests besides his work, but had a catastrophic shortage of time for concerts, plays and exhibitions. He kept up with the latest books, and Leo Tolstoy, the writer, whom he loved, and who wasn't indifferent to chess either, lived very close to Moscow. But, alas, the young barrister received a negative reply to his request for an audience.

In 1946, at the age of 64, Osip Bernstein took part in the first strong post-war tournament in Groningen.

In 1908 Bernstein married Leah Iosifovna Rapoport. Their marriage turned out to be a happy one: they lived together for 54 years. The Bernsteins had two children, a daughter Anna, who later followed in her father's footsteps and became a lawyer, and a son Ilya, who inherited



The long and eventful life of Osip Bernstein

‘I wish I could try Antonovsky apples just one more time’

Genna Sosonko

‘There are two rocks in my way’, Emanuel Lasker said when asked about his chances of winning the St. Petersburg tournament of 1909. The German word for rock is ‘Stein’. One of the rocks in the world champion’s way was Akiba Rubinstein. His pure style and brilliant technique delighted his contemporaries even then, but who was the other person whose attacks made such an impression on Lasker? His name has been undeservedly forgotten, but at the time, when he was characterizing the ‘rocks’, the world champion named both leading players, adding that opposing the attacks of one of them was just as difficult as gaining an inch of ground from the other.

his father's talent for languages and became a professional translator. In this period Bernstein didn't play in tournaments, but he never turned down the organizers of simultaneous exhibitions, always donating his fee to charity.

One of those simuls was held on November 24, 1908, in the newly-opened club on the premises of the Polytechnical Society on Maly Kharitonevsky Lane. Bernstein played two games against some of his opponents. He lost the first one to grammar-school boy Sasha Alekhine, but took his revenge in the second. Alekhine had turned 16 just a month before, but he had already won a tournament of the strongest Moscow amateurs, and in Germany that summer he had won a match against Von Bardeleben (+4 =1 –0).

Bernstein had no time to play in lengthy events; his first serious test after a two-year break was the St. Petersburg tournament of 1909. The tournament attracted a considerable crowd every day. Fans stood for hours around the boards where the famous maestros were playing. The newspapers wrote that the games of Lasker, Rubinstein and Bernstein enjoyed particular attention. Lasker shared first place with Rubinstein, while Bernstein had to be satisfied with fifth prize. As had happened to him before, he suffered losses when he played outsiders, but scored three points out of four against the first prize-winners. The Moscow lawyer played all his games extremely quickly: the evidence of the clocks shows that Bernstein always had an hour of his time in reserve.

In 1912 both the 'rocks' affirmed their excellent reputations – after winning the Moscow Championship Bernstein took second place at the All-Russian Congress in Vilnius, only half a point behind Rubinstein. After them came Alekhine, Nimzowitsch, Levenfish and Alapin. It had become clear that Rubinstein and Bernstein were the strongest players in Russia at that point, but long drawn-out negotiations about a match produced no results, and the contest didn't take place.

In 1911 Bernstein took part in a tournament in San Sebastian where all the strongest grandmasters played, with the exception of the world champion, Lasker. Nimzowitsch and especially Bernstein protested against the invitation to San Sebastian of the unknown young Cuban with the unusual surname Capablanca y Graupera, believing that his victory in a match against Marshall – the handsome brown-haired, calf-eyed young man's only achievement – was an insufficient basis for that.

The evidence of the clocks shows that Bernstein always had an hour of his time in reserve.

After Capablanca destroyed Bernstein's position in the first round with a brilliant attack, the latter acquired boundless respect for the Cuban and announced that he wouldn't be surprised if Capablanca won first prize. Which is what happened. With his victory in San Sebastian Capablanca's incredible ascent began, and Bernstein had to be satisfied with sharing eighth place with Carl Schlechter. When half a century later Bernstein was asked about the events of that time, Osip Samoilovich just smiled and limited himself to the diplomatic: 'I didn't insist on his participation in that tournament, but I didn't protest against it either...'

The next major tournament in St. Petersburg took place in 1914. After arriving in Russia Lasker stayed in Moscow for a few days and played some training games. The world champion lost one game to Bernstein (winning two), and his game with Alekhine ended in a draw. Thus an alternative simul was held between the three maestros: Lasker, Bernstein and Alekhine. Giving his assessment of the players in the forthcoming event, Lasker wrote of Bernstein: 'A man built powerfully and solidly. Very intelligent and vivacious. A strong and very gifted master. A special talent, possessing the rare gift of being able to find original ideas.'

The tournament games were played in a small hall belonging to the chess society, and by the start of each round so many people had already gathered on the premises that there was no way of getting to the boards. The observation of a journalist: 'Janowski sits covering his ears with both hands and staring only at the board, while Bernstein repeatedly and not particularly politely shouts at the crowd, "Could you not be a little more quiet, gentlemen!" In general the Moscow maestro's agitation increases in proportion to the deterioration of his situation in the game, and decreases when his game is getting better.'

In his game against Bernstein Lasker seized the initiative and switched to a counterattack. Frau Lasker, who always sat in the hall with knitting on her lap, was sure that her husband's victory was just a matter of time, and she left for three-quarters of an hour. When she came back the game was already over: Bernstein had won. From then on Martha Lasker didn't leave the tournament venue at all, always staying on the side of the hall where her husband could see her face.

That was the last big international tournament in Russia. The First

Left: A picture from the tournament book of St. Petersburg 1909. Right: In his later years Bernstein remained a tall and imposing figure.

World War and the terrible events of 1917 were approaching. Meanwhile Bernstein's practice was flourishing, bringing him considerable income. He was responsible for several significant things. In the autumn of 1916 Bernstein discovered a million rubles of embezzlement in the Military Procurement Commission and announced the results of his investigations. But events in the country were developing at a furious pace, the autocracy fell, and despite the fact that the affair was widely publicized, the scandal was put to rest 'to save the prestige of Russia,' as the minister of finance at the time put it.

'The events of 1917 completely unsettled me, the stormy waves of civil war knocked me from side to side and brought me to Paris in the end,' Bernstein recalled later. His road to Paris wasn't easy. He almost died at Rostov-on-Don in late 1917, but after a whole string of happy accidents he made it to Moscow, from where he fled to Kiev with his wife and two young children in the autumn of the following year. But the frequent changes of government, chaos and constant threat of pogroms forced Bernstein and his family to uproot themselves again and head for Odessa.

If in pre-revolutionary Russia Odessa was considered the third city in the empire after Moscow and St. Petersburg, in the period when both capitals became 'Red' Odessa still remained an island of the former life in the raging sea of bloody war that surrounded it. Bernstein stayed in this Odessa, where power transferred from hand to hand, an Odessa that was exhausted from decrees, requisitions, rationing, round-ups, searches, arrests and raids, until December 1919, when the Reds again started a big push towards the city.

Steamships arrived in Odessa on January 2, 1920 to evacuate the British, French, Greeks and Italians. Those who expected nothing good from the arrival of the Bolsheviks in Odessa also tried to get onto those ships by any means possible. Osip Bernstein and his family were on the last ship to leave Odessa on January 24.

His émigré life began. Bulgaria and Turkey refused to accept refugees, but they were lucky in Serbia: it turned out that Bernstein had an old acquaintance in Belgrade, and they got permission for onward travel. After long ordeals, having passed through Austria and Norway, Bernstein and his family finally found themselves in Paris.

They had enough money left to live on for a month. But Osip Samoilovich was only 38, and the capital he had brought with him from Russia was always there: his knowledge of languages, his energy, and his accumulated experience in the field of law.

Fortunately, several of the former Moscow lawyer's wealthy clients were in Paris and asked him to go to New York as soon as possible to put their financial affairs in order. The considerable compensation that he received on his return allowed the family to base themselves in Paris permanently. Bernstein quickly revived his reputation and often headed cases that made the front pages of the biggest newspapers in the world. Not only in France, but also internationally, he was considered one of the leading experts in his field.

The Bernsteins' friends included many musicians, writers and journalists, and canvases by Chagall hung in the living room of their flat, given to them by the artist himself. As in Moscow, Bernstein lived in an open house in Paris, where a free atmosphere reigned and only Russian was spoken.

Alekhine and Bernstein met fairly often. They were both members of the Astrea Masonic lodge, at meetings of which, though, they battled at chess more often than they listened to the brothers' reports. Alekhine was already about 40, and he was starting to go bald and getting notice-

ably rounder. But Bernstein had also changed, being exactly 10 years older than the world champion. 'A man with the face of a plump Mephistopheles peacefully slumbers on one of the divans. This is the famous maestro Bernstein.' That was how a journalist from the émigré newspaper *Segodnya* saw him in July 1931 at Alekhine's blindfold simul in Paris.

Bernstein could be spotted a mile off in any crowd: a broad-shouldered giant, with the penetrating gaze of his grey eyes from behind the thick lenses of his glasses, a big, fleshy nose, a sharply-outlined mouth and a beard that was starting to go grey, he looked very imposing. Having gone bald early, his huge head was almost always covered with a dark blue beret. In his mouth there was a pipe or a cigarette – like Alekhine, Bernstein smoked a lot.

He was a very emotional, lively, quick-to-react man. Out of the two typical Jewish peculiarities – wide-ranging abilities and an inclination towards quiet grief – Bernstein had only one: Osip Samoilovich was an incurable optimist. Bernstein was friendly with far from all of his chess player colleagues: with the habit of saying what you think, you won't have a large number of friends, and it would be wrong to think that Bernstein was easy to get along with. He had a sharp tongue, which many of his colleagues experienced for themselves. 'You look like a real doubled pawn,' he announced without beating about the bush when he saw a significant increase in Efim Bogoljubow's waist size.

At the Zurich tournament in 1934 he lost to the Swiss master Fritz Gygli with a crude blunder. 'Aren't I an idiot?' Bernstein exclaimed, showing the game to Emanuel Lasker. 'I don't think that's a completely incorrect explanation of your move,' Lasker diplomatically agreed, when his emotional interlocutor castigated himself for his mistake. 'Won't you agree to give written testimony about that?' Bernstein suggested to the world champion. 'With pleasure,' Lasker replied, immediately signing a document drawn up by the experienced lawyer Bernstein from which it was clear that he, Emanuel Lasker, attested to the chess idiocy of Osip Bernstein. Bernstein presented that document to anyone who wanted to see it for a long time afterwards, and not without pleasure.

Not counting the tournament in Karlsbad in 1923, Bernstein hadn't played for a long 18 years, and after that extended break he wanted to test his strength in the chess field again. Especially as the organizers of a tournament in Berne in 1932 were very insistent that he should participate. Bernstein shared fifth place in strong company, and sixth place at Zurich two years later. This wasn't a failure, of course, but it would also be difficult to call such a result a big success. Alekhine won both tournaments, beating Bernstein in Berne and in Zurich. But in Paris in 1933 Bernstein held a match with Alekhine to a draw (+1 –1 =2), although the world champion was at the peak of his talent at the time. And the score was in Bernstein's favour overall in offhand games, according to eyewitnesses.

> 'A man with the face of a plump Mephistopheles peacefully slumbers on one of the divans.'

Alekhine and Bernstein played chess in Paris on May 10, 1940. Formally it was a consultation game: two Paris amateurs were playing with the distinguished maestros. It's hardly necessary to say that in essence this was a duel between grandmasters. The game ended up being very involved, and Bernstein won. Alekhine didn't manage to get his revenge – this was their last game.

Osip Bernstein and his family fled the French capital on June 9, 1940, a few days before the fall of Paris, and stayed on the territory of the so-called 'free zone' until November 1942. In Vichy France the situation became more and more dangerous for the Bernsteins, but they needed more than an exit visa to get themselves out of the country. The Spanish border guards often sent people back to France if they didn't have an entry visa. After painstakingly studying the possibilities for crossing the border in the vicinity of Perpignan, Bernstein and his wife, his daughter and her husband set off in the direction of Spain.

'We travelled on foot and crossed the Spanish border in the Pyrenees on a narrow mountain path. That crossing took three days. We travelled by night, and during the day we hid in caves. You can imagine two older people moving in pitch darkness, tearing through bushes and trembling at the slightest danger,' Bernstein recalled. 'Once I fell and cut my face. Besides the fact that it was dangerous, there was snow all over the mountains and it was very cold. Tormented by hunger and thirst, absolutely ragged, we nevertheless made it to the border with Spain.'

Bernstein was arrested immediately and put in prison, where he spent two weeks. He was permitted to communicate with friends, and after his release he was ordered to move to Barcelona, where he had to report to the police once a week. He stayed in Spain until August 1945. Bernstein didn't play a single serious game in

that period, but, feeling obliged to his Barcelona friends, he gave two lectures – 'Ideas in the Chess Game' and 'Recollections of an Old Chess Player'. He wrote a few articles for the Madrid magazine *Ajedrez*, but when he found out that Alekhine had become the editor there after arriving in Spain, he not only ended all his work for the magazine, but also refused to subscribe to it: Bernstein was already familiar with Alekhine's articles in *Pariser Zeitung*. When Alekhine gave a simul in Barcelona Bernstein was informed that the world champion wanted to meet with him, but he flatly refused.

After the war the Bernsteins returned to Paris. They found their flat had been plundered, but by a miracle the Chagall canvases, which they had given to people they hardly knew in the countryside for safekeeping, had survived. But, most importantly, they saw their son again, who had spent five years in a POW camp in Germany. Fluent in many languages like his father, Ilya Osipovich Bernstein worked as an interpreter for the UN for a long time, and when U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower came to Europe for a meeting with Khrushchev he accompanied him on that trip.

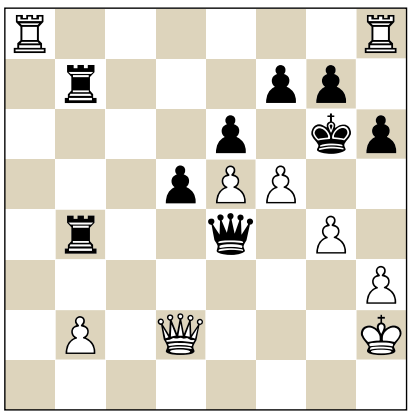
Six months later Bernstein, who was already 64, took part in the first very strong post-war tournament in Groningen in 1946.

Out of 20 players he took 15th place. This was no longer the Bernstein who had been known for his quick decision-making: he often got into severe time-trouble in Groningen, losing points and half-points. He didn't win positions with huge advantages against Flohr and Tartakower. As in his youth, Bernstein tried to force events without sufficient basis for that. In the final analysis, he remained an amateur his entire life. Perhaps a highly talented one, but an amateur.

His opening setup was old-fashioned, and this was particularly noticeable by comparison with the

'Ah, you Moscow swindler, you Moscow swindler, you've played such a trick on an old fool...'

games of the Soviet players. On the other hand, having fallen into a losing position against Kotov, Bernstein set a diabolical trap and his opponent was mated.



Bernstein-Kotov
Groningen 1946
position after 50.f5+

Black resigned in view of 50...exf5 51.♕xh6+! gxh6 52.♖ag8 mate.
He was very proud of that finish, and the next morning he knocked on the door of the young Smyslov's room as usual to show him his combination with the queen sacrifice. Osip Samoilovich called Smyslov Vasenka and often went to see him, questioning him about Moscow and repeating, 'I wish I could try Antonovsky apples just one more time, I liked them so much. There are a lot of other varieties here, but the Antonovka...'

'It was clear that Osip Samoilovich missed Moscow very much,' Smyslov recalled. It was already hard for him to play, but in his game with me in a completely lost endgame he suddenly started shaking his head and saying, "Ah, you Moscow swindler, you Moscow swindler, you've played such a trick on an old fool..." I just went ahead and made a natural move without thinking, and walked straight into stalemate! I remember I asked him, so which of us is the Moscow swindler? "I'm a swindler too," Bernstein admitted, and we burst out laughing. Those half-points were important for me, I should point out, but it was still pleasant that Bernstein came to see me every morning and talked about life. Because Osip Samoilovich was an intelligent man. Very erudite. Wonderful.'

In Paris in 1954 Bernstein played in a France-Soviet Union match. In the first game his opponent David Bronstein ventured to play the King's Gambit against the aging maestro. Bernstein had employed the same variation successfully against Chigorin 53 years earlier, and again achieved a big advantage. But he no longer had the strength to withstand the pressure for a whole game, 'snapped', started making mistakes, and Bronstein got a win in the ending.

Bernstein accidentally ended up in a tournament in Montevideo the same year. When the president of the French Chess Federation suggested that he should go to Uruguay, Bernstein realized that at his age playing in unfamiliar climatic conditions and without any preparation was a risky business. He accepted the offer anyway, explaining that it was his long-time dream to go to South America. At the Madrid airport on his way to Montevideo he met with a reporter, who published an interview with him under the title 'An Audience

with the Grandfather of Chess'.

The game he won against Najdorf in Montevideo was a very beautiful one, but no one could be certain that Bernstein wouldn't confuse one piece for another or suddenly fall asleep while he was playing. That happened in his game with the 19-year-old Bent Larsen at the 1954 Olympiad in Amsterdam. The Dane recalled that Bernstein turned 72 on the day of their encounter, and one of the veterans who was watching their game turned to Larsen with the words, 'Young man! How funny that you're getting to play Bernstein, who decided to give up chess back in 1907!'

■ ■ ■

In the autumn of 1956 Bernstein's dream came true: he arrived in Russia. Khrushchev had already made his speech about Stalin, the thaw had begun, and the old émigré, listed as first board for the French team at the Olympiad, received permission to come to the Soviet Union.

He had last been in Russia almost 40 years earlier. The Moscow he saw was completely different, but at the same time also old and familiar, because everything was still in its place: the Arbat, where he had once lived, the Prague restaurant, the building of the Polytechnical Society on Maly Kharitonovsky, where almost 50 years earlier the schoolboy who would become world champion had played him in a simul. And, all around, the Moscow speech, and the excitement, and the joy of meeting the few people who remembered him from those old, impossible times. And a meeting with his brother, whom he'd last seen in the winter of 1918.

It was all too much for Bernstein, the exhaustion and excitement gave him a stroke. Fortunately not a very serious one, but he still had to spend his first week in a hospital. When he was discharged he moved into the hotel Moscow. There he was seen by a 15-year-old boy by the name of Roma Liberzon.

Fifty-five years later professor of mathematics Roman Efimovich Liberzon recalled: 'My father worked at a top-secret rocket installation plant, and their lawyer was a huge, almost two-metre-tall man who sometimes came to our home – Osip Bernstein's brother. You can imagine my excitement when he suggested that I visit the famous grandmaster – I myself was already going to the chess section at the House of Pioneers. I put on a white shirt and my only tie, and we set off for the hotel Moscow. There I saw a man of significant proportions who spoke very loudly and uninhibitedly and had a spirited laugh. His huge horn-rimmed glasses, and his whole manner of behaviour, and being so absolutely relaxed, were so different from what I saw in my everyday Moscow life. After his stroke Bernstein had double vision, so he had to have a patch over one eye.

'He asked about my successes at chess, politely remarking that he would start following my results. I timidly replied that he shouldn't get me mixed up with my distant relative – and future grandmaster! – Vladimir Liberzon. He also asked me which of his games I was familiar with, and when I said – the recent one against Najdorf! – won brilliantly by Bernstein, it was obvious that he liked that. Osip Samoilovich wanted to know if I was studying foreign languages, and remarked that he himself knew seven.'

On the last day of the Olympiad Bernstein went up on the stage and was recognized by old fans of the game. 'There, look, there, there, the big, tall old man, that's Osip Bernstein,' someone said, and the crowd greeted the veteran with applause.

■ ■ ■

He continued appearing in tournaments from time to time, but his results got worse and worse. In 1956 Bernstein was only fifth in a very weak little tournament in Ostend, where almost half a century earlier he had shared first place with Akiba Rubinstein. It was clear that the giant with the huge bald head who still switched easily from one language to another and remembered history from 60 years previously was only a shadow of the Bernstein who had been the equal of the strongest players in the world.

There weren't many people left who remembered the Bernstein from the beginning of the century. One of them was Edward Lasker. When Lasker came to Paris from America he always visited his old friend Osip, and they reminisced happily about the old days and played through the games of the boy from Riga whose name was on everyone's lips at the time, and they both loved his style of playing.

Bernstein played his last tournament in Amsterdam in 1961. Playing through these games of Bernstein's is painful. He only made two draws, and in many of them played almost until he was mated. Against Langeweg, Bernstein claimed that his opponent had run out of time when the flag fell on the Dutch master's clock after an hour and a half of play (the time control then was the usual one: two and a half hours for 40 moves). 'Young man, you've played wonderfully, but the rules are harsh,' Bernstein consoled his startled opponent. The arbiter couldn't convince the maestro that Langeweg had a whole hour in reserve, Euwe was urgently summoned for assistance, and Bernstein only agreed to continue the game after the intervention of the ex-world champion.

He often sank deep into thought in very simple positions, and a few times, embarrassing his opponents, he fell asleep during play. The young players, smiling, walked past the table where an old man who had once played Teichmann, Chigorin and Schlechter was snoozing peacefully. When master Withuis, one of the organizers of the tournament, cautiously touched Bernstein's elbow, he blurted out, 'Habe ich schon gespielt?' ('Have I played already?') and, instantly making a move, sank back into sleep.

The lenses on his heavy glasses

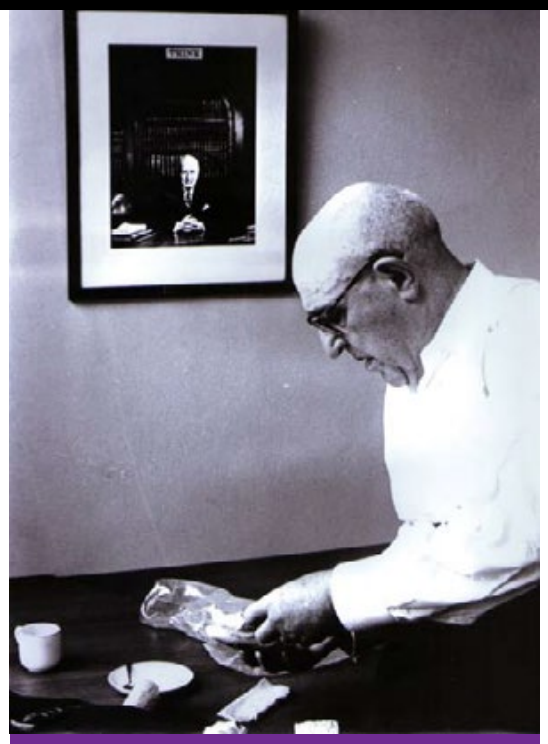
had got even thicker, he was hard of hearing, and he sometimes answered irrelevantly. Occasionally he ordered coffee during a game; after drinking it without tearing his eyes from the board he stretched out his hand with the cup. If no one took it immediately, Bernstein released his fingers... Once Donner, who was standing near his board, executed an elegant pirouette and grabbed the cup, provoking laughter among his colleagues who were watching this pantomime.

On a rest day he announced to everyone that he planned to go shopping. At the supermarket, having taken some things he liked without paying, Bernstein headed for the exit under the bewildered gazes of the shop assistants. Jenny Withuis, who was accompanying the elderly maestro, took his grocery bag under a plausible pretext and left it at the shop. When he got back to his hotel he slept for a long time, but in the evening he wanted to play chess and asked to be taken to a café.

At the closing banquet, before starting the meal, as was the custom then in Holland, a few moments were requested for those who wanted to say a prayer. Bernstein's agitated voice suddenly broke through the silence: 'What's happened? Why has everyone gone quiet? Max, can you explain to me what's going on?'

Bernstein spent the last year of his life in a sanatorium in the French Pyrenees in the little hamlet of Saint-Arroman not far from the border with Spain. The Paris bustle had become too tiring for him, and he needed to be in permanent retirement. Osip Samoilovich Bernstein died on November 30, 1962.

The Bible, measuring the limit of human life at 70 years, leaves 80 only for the 'particularly strong'. Bernstein lived half of the 80 years that he was assigned in Russia, and the other half in France. At the beginning of the century he studied in Germany, and during the Second World War he found himself in Spain. He spoke many languages and felt completely at ease on the Paris boulevards, in Berlin cafés, on the Karlsbad promenade, at the Vienna opera, on Barcelona's La Rambla and in lawyers' offices in New York. Everywhere remaining a Muscovite from that serene start of the 20th century.



'There, look, there, there, the big, tall old man, that's Osip Bernstein,' someone said, and the crowd greeted the veteran with applause.

Having outlived his friend, Edward Lasker said, 'I think Bernstein was a chess player at the champion's level. Nevertheless, I'm sure that he acted wisely by not choosing chess as a profession, preferring a career as a lawyer. Even the title of world champion in chess doesn't guarantee you a comfortable existence in our society.'

The issue here probably wasn't even material wealth or the champion's title. Especially as the time in which Bernstein happened to live was the era of giants like Lasker, Capablanca and Alekhine, and Bernstein's name could be placed several lines below not only those, but also the other brilliant names that the previous century was so full of.

In his cast of character and intellect Bernstein was the type of person for whom it would be boring to do one thing all the time in the single life we are given, especially a very specific thing. He was gifted with all kinds of talents, and his talent for marvellous play was just one of many. What would have happened if he'd given preference to chess, neglected all the others, and today his name were pronounced in one breath with the names of Nimzowitsch and Rubinstein? Would he then have lived a more interesting life? A richer one? But that way it also turned out very rich, full of non-accidental luck, a long, long life.

In his last months his memory began to fail, and he started confusing countries and events. On a narrow mountain path in the Spanish Pyrenees he met an acquaintance with whom he had played offhand games in 1894 in the breaks at their school in Zhitomir. Then he suddenly started hearing the music of Mahler, and from behind the back of the conductor on the stage of the Berlin Philharmonic a smiling Vasenka Smyslov appeared with a basket of Antonovsky apples in the company of the captain of the British frigate that had departed the Odessa port in the cold January of 1920.

Sometimes anxiety seized him: Bernstein thought that he was giving a simul at the club of the Polytechnical Institute on Maly Kharitonevsky Lane in Moscow. The game on board two was particularly worrying him. It was being played by a tall, thin teenager in a pince-nez and the uniform of the Polivanov Gymnasium on Prechistenka Street who was incessantly pulling on a strand of hair. ■

Kiev

‘I love chess so much, that is why I am here!’ The child smiles so charmingly that Vadim, the national TV sports correspondent, is touched. We are doing a TV report on the Ukrainian Chess Championship for the national morning show ‘Ukraine, wake up’. The target audience of the show is an average family with children, so after the TV crew recorded standard videos of grandmasters starting their game, I, in my capacity of marketing director of the Ukrainian Chess Federation, was desperately hunting for additional material of interest. A sweet 6-year-old child was the right spectator to ask why people gathered on the 2nd floor of the famous Kiev building ‘Ukrainian House’ on a sunny June afternoon.

Olena Boytsun

Ukrainian Championship

TV Season 1, Episodes 1-11

Ruslan Ponomariov, 2011 Ukrainian Champion, shares his thoughts with a television crew. Olena Boytsun, Marketing Director of the Ukrainian Chess Federation, watches his technique.

The Ukrainian Chess Championship had never been organized in the capital of Ukraine before. We started preparing the 80th Championship in Kiev in August 2010, with a long road to go. Everything had to be done from scratch: negotiating with sponsors, arranging the playing hall and hotels, contracts with players etc. We even had to change the logo of the Federation and to modernize it: no way could we have used the old one for a four to five metre-long promotional banner along with the logos of the sponsors.

At the opening press conference, Ravil Safiullin, the Head of the Sport and Youth Agency of Ukraine, spoke about sport and business, and much to our delight praised the results of the Ukrainian Chess Federation. 'This federation can be an example to others' – Mr. Safiullin said. The next day TV channels had reports on the 'Money and Sport' issue and compared soccer and chess. They also cited the President of the Ukrainian Chess Federation, Viktor Kapustin, without whose drive and determination this year's jubilee event would never have materialized.

Of the 12 participants in this 80th championship, three grandmasters have a rating over 2700 and six of them are rated over 2600. The field guaranteed category 17, and small wonder that the tournament website gets visits from 108 countries. In the same 'Ukrainian House' where our tournament is played, an international exhibition is opened. My assistant uses the possibility and goes to the exhibition with brochures of the championship. Fifty brochures later she is back with a new audience that would love to see 'a sizable group of smart men who keep silent for several hours, with some of them even being unmarried'. In the evening those new spectators may tell about their experience to their families and friends and may come back with their children and husbands.

However, the chess players do not react. They are at work and pay no attention to the audience. One grandmaster mechanically gives an autograph to a girl in a bright summer dress with a huge décolleté, not even looking at her (which really wasn't that easy) and then sighs that 'such a girl will never pay attention to me'. The girl had been waiting for five hours to get the autograph and had watched the games.

And those games were fighting and entertaining, something worth experiencing live. There were draws, of course, like, for example, the 130-move draw Kovchan-Vysochin in

Round 2. Or the 71-move draw Eljanov-Moiseenko in the first round, to which one may add that Pavel and Alexander are childhood friends, are alumni of the same Kharkiv Law Academy and even go to training camps together. But the tension was high. Chess is a sport, and out of the 66 games played 21 were won by White and nine by Black.

At the beginning of the Championship I had decided to concentrate on the TV channels to see if there were any chances of chess getting TV time. As a result, a never-ending hunt started for attractive TV shots. Areshchenko and Volokitin have birthdays! How can we turn that into a nice TV item? Alexander Moiseenko achieves his first victory only in Round 6! And then he scores 4½ points from his next five games! Ruslan Ponomariov looks concerned when he is about to start his game against his friend and second Zahar Efimenko! Yury Kryvoruchko takes the lead together with Ponomariov! A special postal stamp that we produced for the Championship in a limited edition and presented to guests and journalists, is already on eBay for €60! Anything you can write with an exclamation mark attached is news and can be used for a TV report.

On the last day of the event Anton Korobov spotted us near the elevator, singing an energetic Ukrainian folk song together with a TV crew. We were happy – everything was going well. Anton looked a bit puzzled. Maybe he had never seen an organizational team singing before. I made him swear that he was not going to tell anyone what he had seen and heard, especially not on social networks. Whenever he is being photographed in an unusual environment, Ruslan Ponomariov tends to jokingly express his concern that the photos will be on Facebook in a minute. This time he was so right: I was experimenting with an official Facebook page for the Championship, where (and only there) photos and videos of the event were posted. It was so easy to upload everything there that the experiment should be seen as positive. A further experiment with TV showed that nothing is impossible if you devote time and energy to it. TV has the power of immediate release of information, and the game of chess has the power to make people happy. Both TV and chess have one thing in common, though: they can hold people's attention for a long time.

> 'A special postal stamp that we produced for the Championship in a limited edition is already on eBay for € 60 !'

From the very first round Ruslan Ponomariov took the lead. Most of the grandmasters entered the event because of their high Elo-ratings, but for the remaining spots there was a tough selection process. Grandmasters got the right to participate in the final after qualifying from the semi-finals. One of them was Yury Kryvoruchko, a young grandmaster from the Lviv region who showed great results in the first half of the tournament and managed to keep up with Ponomariov for a while. However, when in Round 7 the game of the leaders Kryvoruchko and Ponomariov ended in a 25-move draw and Eljanov and Moiseenko won their games, the latter two members of the victorious Olympiad team closed in on the front-runner. And when, in Round 8, Pavel Eljanov beat Yury Kryvoruchko, he moved into clear second place, while Yury lost all chances for the three first places.

Before the 11th and last round nothing was clear yet. In the crucial game Ponomariov faced Moiseenko, who trailed him by half a point, a perfect pairing for anyone who loves tension and excitement! Alexander had white, and in case of victory he would become the Champion. So, needless to say this 11th episode was tailor-made for TV. As in a popular TV series, one could identify with the characters and anxiously follow the development of the story.

The playing hall was full, despite the fact that it was midday on Tuesday. The intrigue was there. Ruslan and Alexander exchanged moves, the spectators exchanged looks. After a gripping and spectacular fight Ruslan won, but nobody left the hall. Until

JUST AS GOOD - ONLY MUCH CHEAPER!
SPECIAL QUANTITY DISCOUNTS

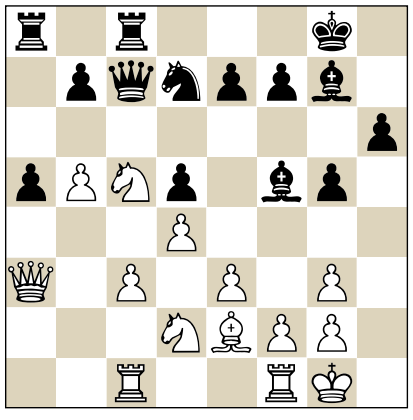
Competition Pro Game Clock
only € 49.95!
Competition Game Clock
only € 29.95!

available at www.newinchess.com
Saitek
special quantity discounts

the very last second the audience watched the game of Pavel Eljanov against Alexander Kovchan. Eljanov won and claimed second place.

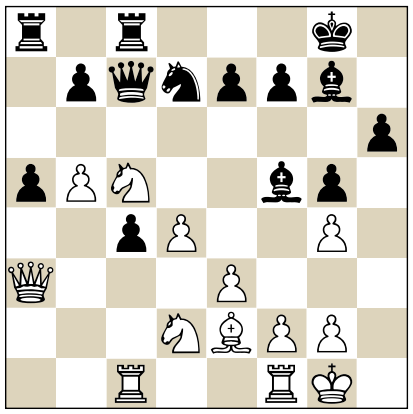
Pavel was satisfied with the level of his play and believed he could have posed a real threat to Ponomariov if he had made better use of the chances he got. According to him it was this greater efficiency in exploiting opportunities that brought Ruslan the title.

Here is a fragment from Eljanov's fine win over Volokitin.

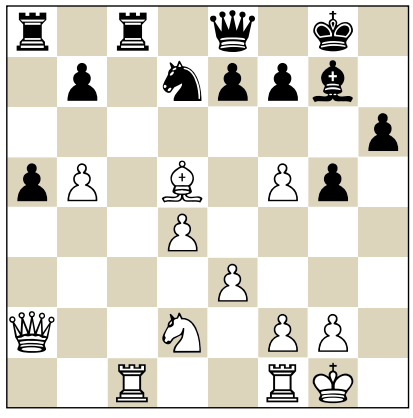


Eljanov-Volokitin
position after 21...♘d7

This position demands resolute action, as White's activity can easily dwindle. **22.c4! dxc4 23.g4!** Two strong zwischenzugs throw Black off balance, and in time-trouble Volokitin commits his only serious mistake, which turns out to be decisive.



23...♘xc5? 23...♗g6 was forced, when Black is very much in the game: 24.♘a4 (24.♘xd7 ♕xd7 25.♘xc4 ♕e6 26.d5 ♕f6 27.♖fd1 gives White an edge) 24...♗f8 25.♘xc4 e6 26.♕b3, and White is only marginally better. **24.gxf5 ♕d8 25.♗xc4 ♘d7 26.♕a2 ♕e8 27.♗d5**



Now Black is just lost. **27...♖xc1 28.♖xc1 ♖a7 29.♘c4** More direct was 29.♖c7! ♘b6 30.♗xb7 ♕b8 31.♖xe7, and White wins. **29...b6 30.♗c6** Even better was 30.♘b2!. **30...♕b8 31.♗d5 ♕e8 32.♘b2!** White grabs the second chance to decide the game with this manoeuvre. **32...♘f6 33.♘a4 ♘xd5 34.♕xd5 ♕d7 35.♘xb6 ♕xd5 36.♘xd5 ♖d7** Black lost on time.

Zakhar Efimenko also won his last game and shared third and fourth places with Alexander Moiseenko, taking third place after the tie-breaker. What a story, what a script! As I was supervising the work of the TV teams, I had to control the spectators, who were keen to get on TV even if only their left ear showed in the background of Pavel Eljanov giving an interview.

At 4.55 pm I got a call from Vadim. 'Hi, Ponomariov is the new champion', I provided him with the fresh information. 'I know,' he said, 'and in five minutes the whole country will know.' He had just prepared the report for the 5 p.m. evening news in which he could include an interview with Ruslan that we had done the day before the last round with non-specific questions. They used some of what Ruslan had said and deftly created the impression that Ruslan, fresh from his last game, was telling Ukraine how happy he had been to play in the Ukrainian Championship.

Ruslan Ponomariov has never been Ukrainian Champion before. At the closing ceremony he raised the trophy high and flashed a broad smile. It was a nice picture for the TV crew. The championship and our first 'season' on TV were over.

NOTES BY
Ruslan Ponomariov

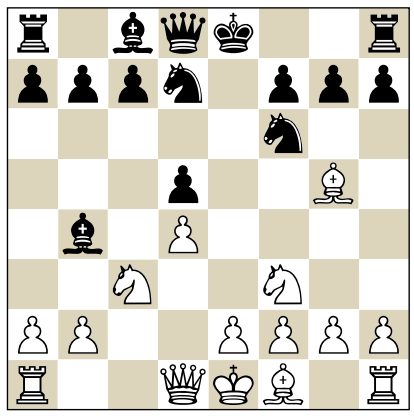
NI 27.11 – D38
Alexander Moiseenko
Ruslan Ponomariov
Kiev 2011 (11)

Despite the apparent ease with which I achieved quite a high result and won the championship by a margin of one point, in fact everything was decided in the following single game. Had it ended differently, it is quite probable that, in spite of all the preceding efforts, instead of the numerous congratulations I would merely have heard a few words of sympathy.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♗b4

According to the Candidates' matches in Kazan, 4...♗e7 is probably sounder. Unfortunately, to save on the tournament budget the last and decisive round began three hours earlier than usual. To be honest, because of this I did not have time to prepare properly for the game. For some reason I decided that it would be not altogether correct to aim strictly for a rearguard action, and so I chose the more complicated Ragozin Defence. Fortunately, in the end this choice proved justified.

5.cxd5 exd5 6.♗g5 ♘bd7

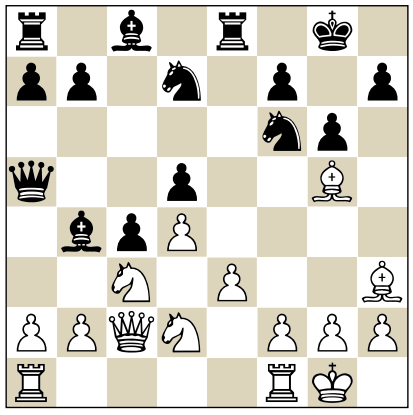


7.e3

In the first half of the championship Alexander played more cautiously and did not achieve anything with white in this opening: 7.♖c1 c6 8.a3 ♗d6 9.♕c2 0-0 10.e3 ♖e8 11.♗d3 ♘f8 12.0-0 ♗g4 13.♗h4 ♗h5 14.♗g3 ♗g6 15.♘e5 ½-½, Moiseenko-

Efimenko, Kiev 2011. After the free day he played more aggressively and began picking up point after point. Of course, in our decisive game it was unlikely that he would repeat the harmless 7.♖c1 c6 8.a3 and in the event he was not afraid to go in for the most critical continuation.

7...c5 8.♗d3 ♕a5 9.♕c2 0-0 10.0-0 c4 11.♗f5 ♖e8 12.♘d2 g6 13.♗h3

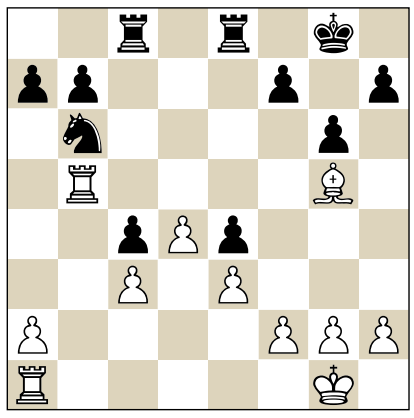


13...♗xc3

In recent times 13...♔g7 has become more popular, aiming to retain as many pieces as possible as well as the tension. But since in the tournament situation I was also satisfied with a draw, I did not object to exchanges. But the resulting endgame turned out to be no less complicated!

14.♕xc3 ♕xc3 15.bxc3 ♘e4 16.♘xe4 dxe4 17.♖fb1 ♘b6 18.♗xc8 ♖axc8 19.♖b5

Before this there were numerous alternatives for White and for Black. My opponent played quite quickly, almost at blitz speed, as if he had foreseen that I would choose this particular opening! It was time for me to draw breath and think a little about what to do next.



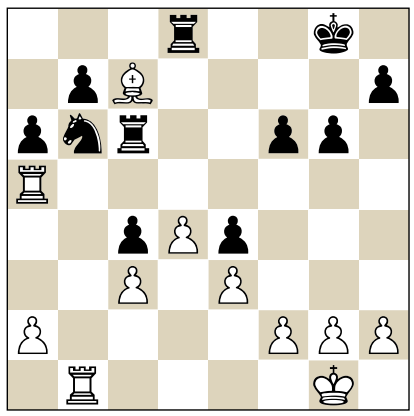
19...♖c6

Black must try to post his knight at d5, where in the given position it is ideally placed, blocking White's passed pawn, and itself creating threats.

I thought that 19...♖e6 was less accurate on account of 20.♖ab1 f6 21.♗f4, when Black still cannot take control of the d5-square by 21...♖d8 because of 22.♗c7.

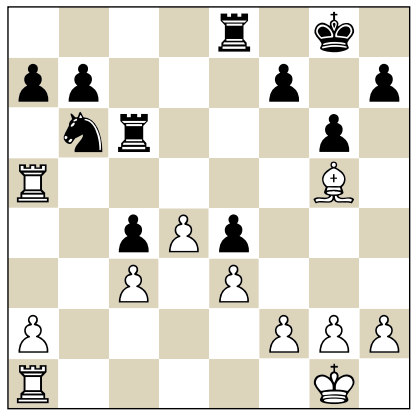
20.♖a5

If 20.♖ab1 I was intending to play 20...f6 21.♗f4 ♖d8. The c7-square is now under control, and Black's pieces are quite well placed. And after 22.♖a5 a6 23.♗c7 there is an amusing tactic, based on the fact that White has not managed to make an escape square for his king:



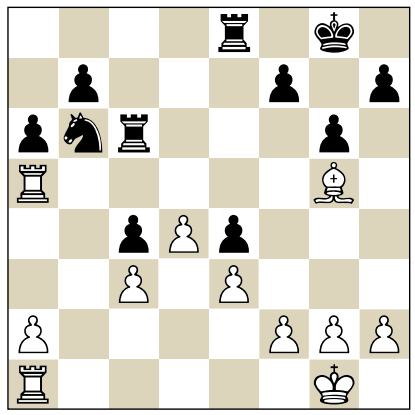
ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

23...♖d5! 24.♗xb6 (White loses after 24.♖xb6 ♖xa5 25.♖xc6 ♖xa2) 24...♖xb6 25.♖xb6 ♖xa5 with counterplay.



20...f6

To be honest, White's last move disturbed me somewhat. My first thought was simply to defend the a7 pawn, but then as an alternative I noticed the move that I in fact chose. Even so, now the simple 20...a6 seems sounder to me. I don't know what exactly Sasha had prepared at home after this. Possibly we will soon see this in subsequent games. I have analysed the following possibilities:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

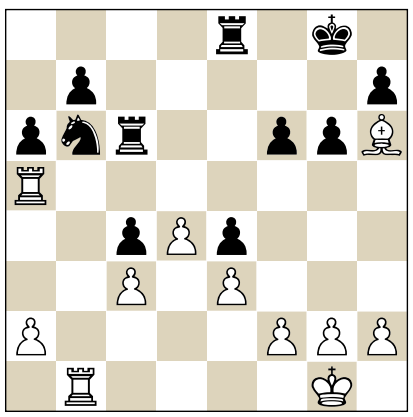
A) 21.♖d1 is altogether harmless in view of 21...♖d6, when White's

CHESS VIBES
TRAINING
Do you want to improve your chess?
ChessVibes Training
• weekly PDF magazine (+ PGN!)
• 8 pages of middlegame & endgame tips
• column by top GM Anish Giri
Subscribe at ChessVibes.com/training

A book, a cup, a medal and a diploma for the new champion. Behind Ruslan Ponomariov stands Viktor Kapustin, the president of the Ukrainian Chess Federation.

passed pawn is not going anywhere – 22.d5 ♖e5;

B) 21.♖b1 f6 22.♗h6 (22.♗f4 ♖d8 23.♗c7 ♖d5! is an already familiar tactical trick – 24.♗xb6 ♖xb6 25.♖xb6 ♖xa5 with counterplay), when Black has a choice between:

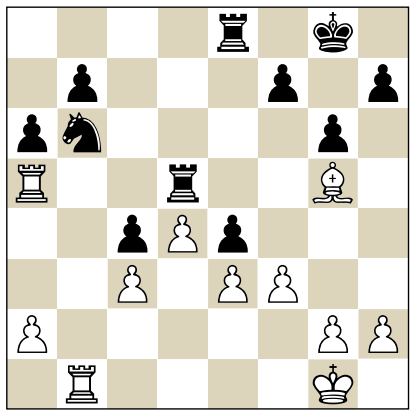


ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

B1) 22...♖d8, which in one fantastic variation leads to a draw by repetition: 23.f3 ♘d5 24.♖xb7 ♘xc3 25.♔f2 ♘b5 26.d5 ♖xd5! 27.a4 ♖d2+ 28.♔e1 c3! 29.axb5 c2 30.♖g7+ ♔h8 31.♖a1 ♖cd6 32.♖c7 ♔g8 33.♖g7+ ♔h8 34.♖c7=;

B2) Or the quieter 22...♔f7!? 23.h4 ♖e7 (in some cases Black can also play for a win here) 24.f3 f5 25.♗g5 ♖d7 26.fxe4 fxe4 27.♖e5 ♘d5 28.♖c1 h6! 29.♗xh6 ♖e6 30.♖f1+ ♖f6 31.♖xf6+ ♔xf6 32.♖xe4 ♘xc3 33.♖f4+ ♔e6 34.♔f2 ♔d5 35.g4 ♘xa2⇄, and Black's pawns are no less dangerous than White's.

C) 21.f3!? – probably White's soundest move, and the one that sets the most problems: 21...♖d6 22.♖b1 ♖d5, and now:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

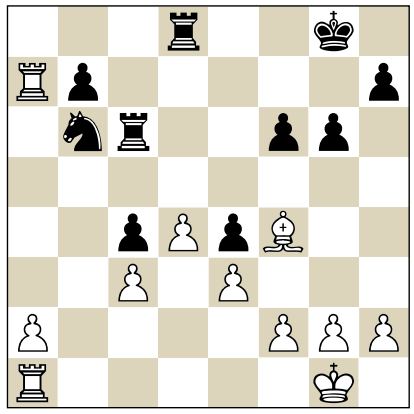
C1) 23.♖c5 ♖xc5 24.dxc5 ♘a4 25.♖xb7 ♘xc5 26.♖b4 ♘d3 27.♖xc4 exf3 28.gxf3 ♘e5 29.♖f4 f5 30.♔g2 h6 31.♗f6 ♘d3 with counterplay;

C2) 23.♖xd5 ♘xd5 24.♖xb7 exf3 25.gxf3 ♘xe3 26.♖c7 ♔g7 27.♔f2 ♘d1+ 28.♔g3 ♘xc3 29.♖xc4 ♘d5 30.♖c5 ♘e7⇄, and Black should not lose here, since all the white pawns are isolated.

21.♗f4

If 21.♗h6, with the idea of gaining a tempo compared with the game, I would probably now have played 21...a6 22.♖b1 ♖d8, transposing into the above variations. But now Black is probably forced to give up a pawn, since he does not want to allow d4-d5.

21...♖d8 22.♖xa7



22...♘d5

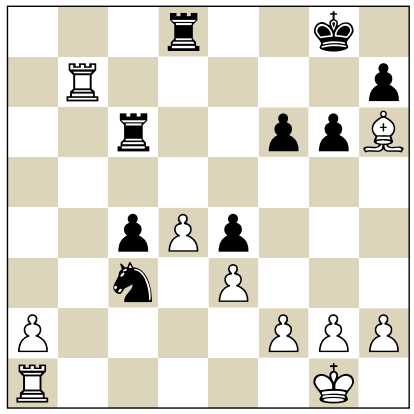
22...♖d7 was more cautious, when after 23.♖c1 ♘d5 24.♖a4 (24.h4 ♖a6 25.♖xa6 bxa6 26.f3 f5) 24...♔f7 25.g4 ♔e6 26.♗g3 ♘b6 27.♖a5 ♘d5 the strong knight on d5 fully compensates for the pawn deficit.

But I decided to follow my initially intended plan. However, after this the position becomes increasingly chaotic, with general reasoning pushed into the background and the most important role played by specific calculation.

23.♖xb7!? My opponent also does not object to throwing caution to the winds! True, after 23.♖c1 I have 23...♖b6, while if 23.♖b1 there is also 23...b6 (apart from 23...♖d7) 24.♖a3 ♖cc8 25.♖b5 ♔f7.

23...♘xc3 23...g5?! favours White after 24.♗b8 ♘xc3 25.a4.

24.♗h6



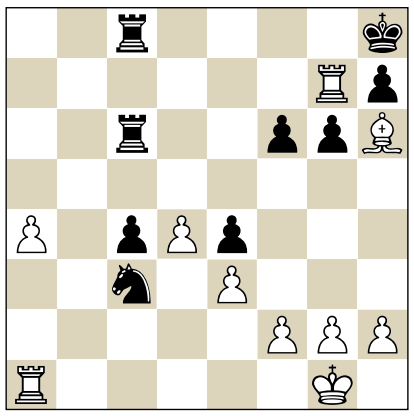
It is not altogether clear how White intends to stop Black's passed c-pawn. But instead of this White unequivocally lets it be known that he is not averse to playing for mate, since in his search for counterplay Black has somewhat forgotten about his king.

This is most vividly demonstrated after the direct 24...♘d5 25.♖ab1, and if 25...c3 then 26.♖g7+ ♔h8 27.♖bb7, when White is precisely one move ahead.

24...♖dc8 25.♖g7+?!

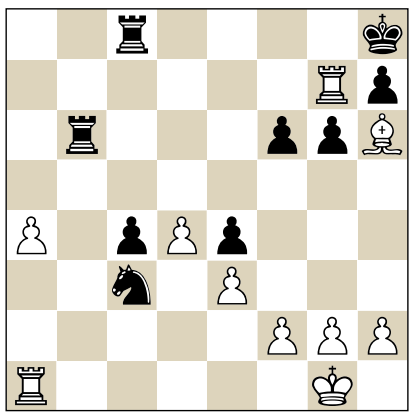
Alexander probably did not want to release my king off the back rank after 25.a4 ♖6c7 (25...♘d5 26.♖g7+ ♔h8 27.♖d7 transposes into what occurred in the game) 26.♖xc7 ♖xc7, but, as will be evident from what happens, this should have been played.

25...♔h8 26.a4



26...♘d5

The natural move, in order to begin pushing the passed pawn. But during the game we both overlooked another way of doing this – 26...♖b6!, after which White has to find accurate moves to make a draw:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

Kiev 2011 — cat. XVI

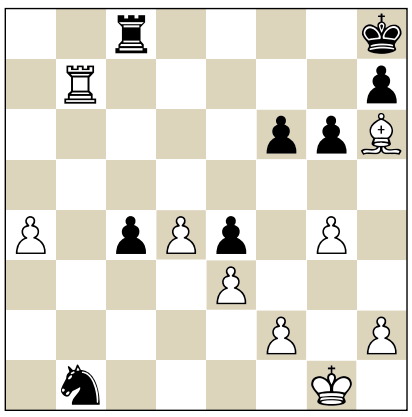
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		TPR
1	Ruslan Ponomariov	IGM	UKR	2754	*	½	½	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	8½	2852
2	Pavel Eljanov	IGM	UKR	2712	½	*	½	½	1	1	½	½	½	½	1	1	7½	2778
3	Zakhar Efimenko	IGM	UKR	2701	½	½	*	½	½	1	1	½	1	½	½	½	7	2748
4	Alexander Moiseenko	IGM	UKR	2679	0	½	½	*	½	½	1	1	1	½	1	½	7	2750
5	Andrey Volokitin	IGM	UKR	2677	½	0	½	½	*	1	½	1	½	½	½	1	6½	2713
6	Yury Kryvoruchko	IGM	UKR	2640	½	0	0	½	0	*	1	½	1	1	½	1	6	2687
7	Alexander Areshchenko	IGM	UKR	2694	½	½	0	0	½	0	*	½	½	½	1	1	5	2610
8	Evgeny Miroshnichenko	IGM	UKR	2651	0	½	½	0	0	½	½	*	½	1	1	½	5	2614
9	Anton Korobov	IGM	UKR	2660	0	½	0	0	½	0	½	½	*	½	1	1	4½	2585
10	Spartak Vysochin	IGM	UKR	2529	0	½	½	½	½	0	½	0	½	*	½	½	4	2559
11	Yury Vovk	IGM	UKR	2550	0	0	½	0	½	½	0	0	0	½	*	½	2½	2449
12	Alexander Kovchan	IGM	UKR	2558	0	0	½	½	0	0	0	½	0	½	½	*	2½	2448

A) White loses after 27.a5 ♖b1+ 28.♖xb1 ♘xb1 29.♖b7 ♘a3 30.♗g7+ ♔g8 31.♗xf6 c3 32.♖g7+ ♔f8 33.♖xh7 ♖c6 34.♗e7+ ♔g8 35.♗xa3 ♔xh7 36.♔f1 ♖a6;

B) Or 27.♔f1 ♘b1 28.a5 ♖bb8−+;

C) 27.h4 ♘e2+ 28.♔h2 c3 29.a5 ♖b5 30.a6 c2 31.a7 ♖a8 32.♖c7 ♖b1 33.♗g7+ ♔g8 34.♖xc2 ♖xa1 35.♗xf6 ♖8xa7 36.♖xe2 ♖1a2 37.♖xa2 ♖xa2 38.♔g3 ♔f7 39.♗e5 ♔e6 40.f3 ♔f5 draws;

D) Best is 27.g4! ♖b1+ 28.♖xb1 ♘xb1 29.♖b7, and now:

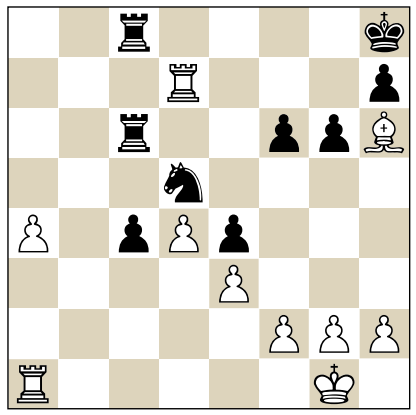


ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

D1) 29...♘c3 30.a5 ♘d5 31.♖f7 ♔g8 32.♖g7+ ♔h8 33.♖f7 with a draw;

D2) 29...♘d2 30.♗g7+ ♔g8 31.♗xf6 c3 32.d5 c2 33.♗b2 ♘f3+ 34.♔g2 c1♕ 35.♗xc1 ♖xc1 36.h4! (36.d6 loses to 36...♖g1+ 37.♔h3 h5 38.gxh5 g5) 36...♘xh4+ 37.♔g3 g5 38.♖e7! ♖g1+ 39.♔h3 with a draw.

27.♖d7 Now 27.♖b1 c3 28.♖bb7 no longer works because of 28...♘c7, which is why I played 24...♖dc8.

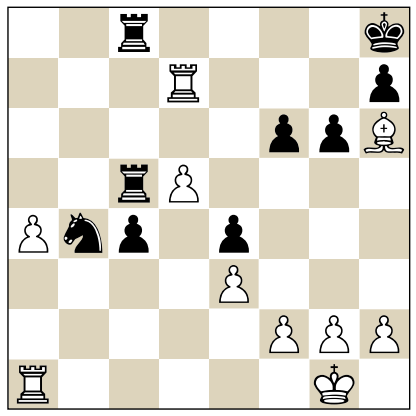


27...♘b4!?

Black continues to pursue his course, which in the end proves successful. But according to my second Mikhail Golubev, his heart nearly stopped after this move, so risky did it appear in the press centre!

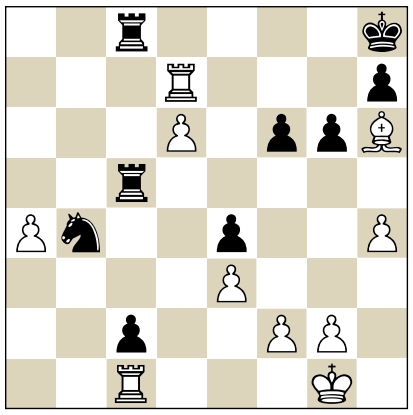
He thought that the quiet 27...♘b6 should have been played, but I did not like 28.♖b7 c3 29.a5 ♘c4 30.♖c1 ♘xa5 31.♖b5 ♖a8 32.h4, when although material is equal here, Black's pieces are poorly coordinated and he still has to fight for a draw without any particular prospects of winning.

28.d5 ♖c5



29.♗g7+?!

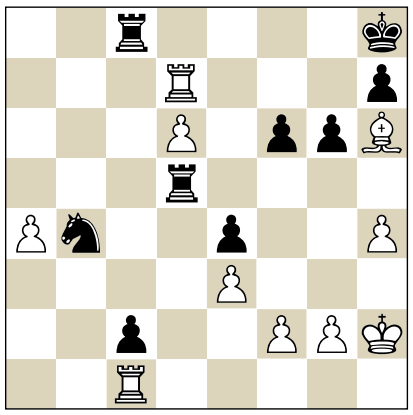
My opponent is the first to crack under the tension imposed, and he goes wrong. My second's sufferings were associated with 29.d6! c3 30.h4 c2 31.♖c1, and now:



A) Black loses after 31...♘d3 32.♖e7 ♘xc1 33.d7 ♘e2+ 34.♔h2 ♖g8 35.♗g7+ ♖xg7 36.d8♕+ ♖g8 37.♖e8 ♖xe8 38.♕xe8+ ♔g7 39.♕e7+ ♔g8 40.♕xc5 c1♕ 41.♕xc1 ♘xc1 42.a5;

B) 31...♖a8 32.♖e7 ♖d8 33.♔h2 ♘c6 34.♖c7 ♔g8 35.♗f4 ♔f8 36.a5 ♔e8 37.♖xh7 ♖d7 38.♖h8+ ♔f7 39.a6 clearly favours White;

C) 31...♖d5 32.♔h2! (but not 32.♖c7 ♖d8), and in the end the black passed pawn does not promote:

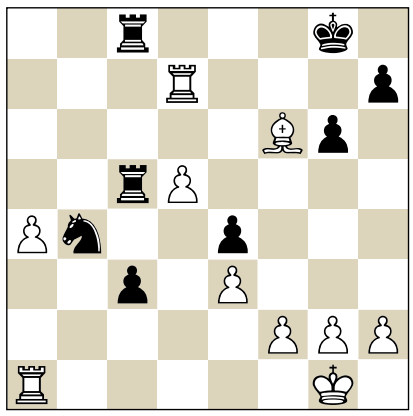


ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

32...♖a8 33.♗g7+ ♔g8 34.♗xf6 ♖d1 35.♗b2 ♖xa4 36.♖c7 ♖xd6 37.♖c4 ♖da6 38.♗c3 (38.♖xe4 ♖b6!) 38...♘c6 39.♖c5 ♖a2 40.♗e1, when in this endgame I would still have had to fight for a draw, and who knows how the championship would have concluded.

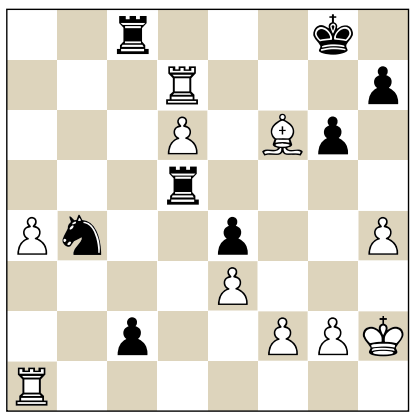
29...♔g8 30.♗xf6 c3

Black is now better, but my opponent erroneously assumed that he still had a big advantage. Otherwise I think he would have readjusted in good time to fighting for a draw. In the end this even cost him the bronze medal.



31.d6? I think that after 31.♗xc3 ♖xc3 32.h4, in view of the limited material, the game should end in a draw, although there is no forced way for White to achieve this.

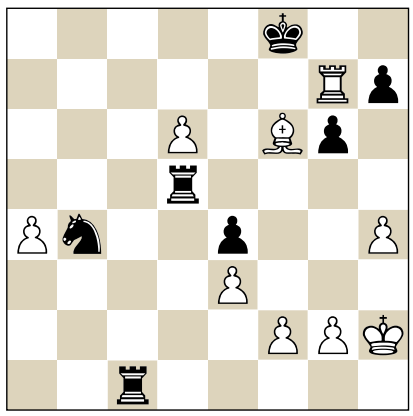
31...c2 32.h4 ♖d5 33.♔h2



33...c1♕?

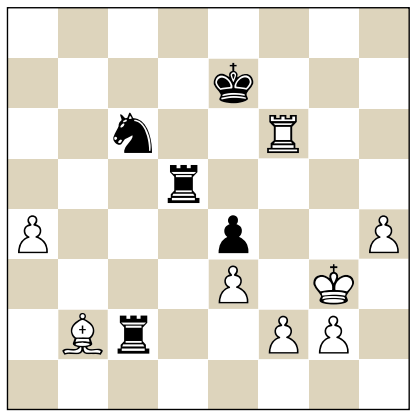
It is probable that, if I had needed to win at all costs, I would have found 33...♖d1 34.♖g7+ ♔f8 35.d7 ♖c6 36.♖e7 ♖cd6 37.♖xe4 ♖xd7 38.♖c4 ♔f7 39.♗e5 ♖b1!. But I could not understand how White was intending to beat me if I won the rook immediately.

34.♖xc1 ♖xc1 35.♖g7+ ♔f8



36.♖xh7? After making this move my opponent belatedly offered a draw. It was not yet too late for 36.♖b7 ♘c6 37.d7=. But after a little thought, despite the fact that a draw would guarantee me the championship, I decided to play on, since with an extra rook it is rather difficult to lose, and, apart from moral satisfaction, a win in this game would enable me on the 1st of July to again move into the world top ten.

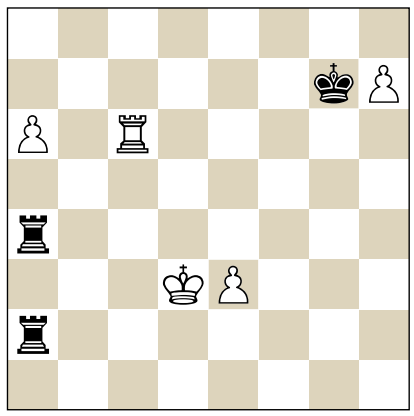
36...♘c6 37.♖c7 ♔e8 38.♖c8+ ♔d7 39.♖c7+ ♔xd6 Also winning was 39...♔e6 40.♗e7 ♖c2. **40.♖g7 ♔e6 41.♗b2 ♖c2 42.♖xg6+ ♔f7 43.♖f6+ ♔e7 44.♔g3**



44...♖dd2

44...♖dc5! 45.♗a1 ♖a2 would have led to great win of material, but the move in the game also wins easily. The scattered white pawns do not constitute any danger.

45.h5 ♖xb2 46.♖xc6 ♖xf2 47.h6 ♖xg2+ 48.♔f4 ♔f7 49.a5 ♖bf2+ 50.♔xe4 ♖g4+ 51.♔d3 ♖a2 52.a6 ♖ga4 53.h7 ♔g7



54.h8♗+!? Even at the end of the game, despite everything, my opponent retains his sense of humour ☺.

54...♔xh8 White resigned. ■

Luke McShane

The Relevance of Reverence (and Elephants)

If there can be said to be a scale of etiquette infringements, I'm not quite sure where this one fits. Nevertheless, I'd like to begin this review by mentioning a different chess magazine – *Kingpin*. You might suppose that this transgression is intended only to demonstrate my independence of opinion, and principled approach to the task of penning reviews. A quick glance at the cover of *Kingpin*'s latest issue would put paid to that, as one of my own articles is mentioned on the cover, making up 6 pages of the magazine's 64. I feel I can get away with this, because *Kingpin* is not a chess magazine in the normal sense of the word. It certainly doesn't have a regular publication date, and the content is not exactly current. (Indeed, I was expressly asked not to write about anything particularly recent.) The latest issue is number 41, hot on the heels of issue number 40 from August 2009. If you've never come across *Kingpin*, a quick browse of the website at www.kingpinchess.net should give some flavour of what it's all about. Apparently George Botterill wrote in the *New Statesman* that 'Its rather coarse satirical manner may not appeal to everyone – just the majority of us who enjoy sharp games and low humour'. That sums it up rather well for me. In this latest issue, I particularly enjoyed Emil Sutovsky's analysis of his beautiful game against Danny Gormally from Gibraltar in 2005.

Of course, I considered it my duty to read over the Book Reviews section. This induced a mild existential crisis, as Justin Horton has a rather different approach to the task from my own. In general, I much prefer to write about books which have some merit. On the other hand, Horton 'reviews the worst chess book he's ever read'. He explains: 'I'm a librarian by profession, and a bookseller by happenstance and I live in the world of books. This gives me a different perspective. I review chess books as I would review other books. It makes no sense to me to do otherwise.' Therefore, I count it as a considered opinion when he claims that 'chess books are generally worse than other books', and one of the reasons is that reviewers are, all too often, intimidated by the greater playing strength of authors. That leads to a lack of pointed criticism, and generally lower standards (supposedly). While I'm recommending a mere tasting plate, Horton is (at least in that article) more like a noble lighthouse keeper, warning his readers away from the jagged rocks. Maybe I've been missing the point all along?

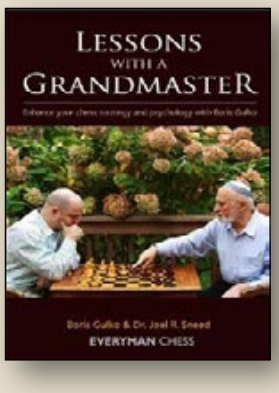
No doubt, many books fall short, but I'm not sure I agree that chess books should always be judged in the same fashion as other books. Chess is variously viewed as a sport, an art, a science, a form of self-expression, and a dozen other things. Moreover, all of the readers are looking for different things. Some are looking for a pleasant read, others are seeking nuggets of chess wisdom, while a few just want a recommendation which avoids the Petroff. Put simply, it's very difficult to combine all these things in one book.

Horton has a particular eye for detail, and also laments the quantity of minor errors which creep into chess books in general. As he puts it, we may still be left asking, 'if they didn't care about getting this right, what else didn't they care about?' In my view, that's a fair criticism of chess books in the broadest sense, although I'm conscious that my own writing is not immune to carelessness, and such details only tend to bother me when I dislike a book in the first place. The lack of an automatic spelling and grammar checker which reads chess notation is probably part of the explanation, but that doesn't mean it doesn't matter.

In any case, the article was well-written, entertaining, and certainly not blindly polemical, as Horton does actually see things to like in some of the books which come under his microscope. I was also interested by Horton's view, in a separate article, that while there are plenty of books about chess and the Soviet Union, there are many other aspects of the history of chess which might be illuminated in the context of other subjects. (Horton points to *Chess and Empire*, *Chess and the Occupation* and *Chess and Homosexuality* as just a few examples.) The

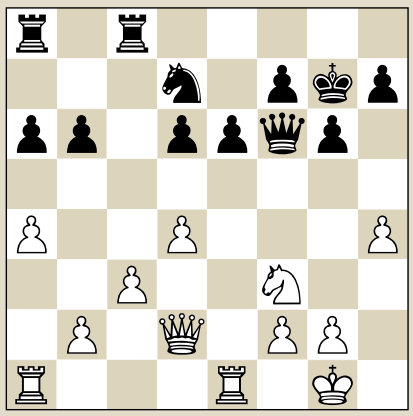
book which provoked this thought was *The KGB Plays Chess*, which is not a book I have read. But one of its co-authors was Boris Gulko, who has recently co-authored a book called *Lessons with a Grandmaster*, with enthusiastic amateur player Dr. Joel R. Sneed.

Dr. Sneed is a professor of psychology at Queen's College of the City University of New York, and one of Gulko's students. Books where one author is much stronger than the other are sometimes not much of a joint effort at all, but that is clearly not the case with *Lessons with a Grandmaster*. It's a book written in the style of a conversation between teacher and pupil,



Lessons with a Grandmaster
Enhance your Chess Strategy and Psychology
Boris Gulko & Joel Sneed
Everyman 2011

in which they discuss 25 of Gulko's best games. I must admit that I didn't warm to this format immediately. It might have worked well for Greek rhetoricians, but in the 21st century, you don't see much of it about. However, I really like the way it works in this book. As Joel explains in the introduction, 'I was especially interested in representing the average club player in the conversation, and thought that my training in interviewing and psychotherapy would enable me to draw out some of the nuances that are not accessible to the average chess player.' Here's a nice example:



Taimanov-Gulko
Moscow 1976
position after 19.h4

19...h6!

Joel: Why did you give this an exclamation point?

Boris: I continue my psychological battle. I am defending against threats that don't exist to give the opponent the impression that he has the advantage.

Joel: But 19...h6 seems very natural. You neutralize the threat of h4-h5.

Boris: But h4-h5 is not a real threat! I could just take the h-pawn if I wanted to. However, I defend against h4-h5 anyway. If Black is on 'defense', White must be on 'attack'. Because of this impression, White played an unfortunate 'active' move.

20.♖e4?

Boris: 20.♕d3 was better, though after 20...♕f5 Black has a good position.

20...b5!

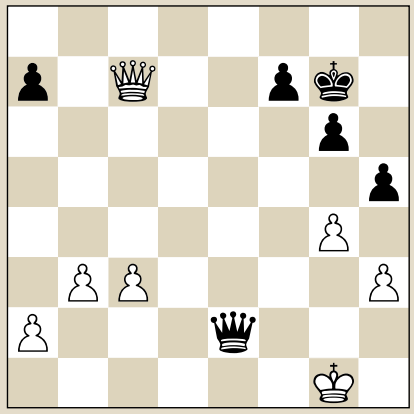
Boris: Now I start my counterplay. If I played b6-b5 earlier, he had ♕d3. Now if he plays 21.♕d3, I could play 21...♕f5 and his position is awkward because of the unfortunate position of the rook on e4.

21.♖ee1

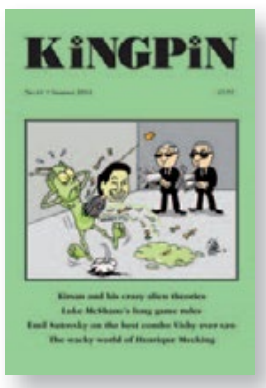
Boris: He realizes his mistake immediately.

As it happens, I don't entirely agree with what Gulko says on this occasion. In the case of 19...b5 20.♕d3, I wondered why Black couldn't play 20...♕f5! to offer an exchange of queens. My computer agrees, and even suggests that 19...b5 20.h5 might have been a more promising try. But that is not the main point of this excerpt. Rather, Gulko didn't feel the time was right to advance until the move afterwards, and his patience was rewarded with a mistake. Furthermore, there is a real conversation going on here, which applies throughout the book – Dr. Sneed is not just 'smiling and nodding'. The book is clearly the result of many such conversations.

At times, Gulko can be entertainingly blunt in his responses to the more earnest questions.



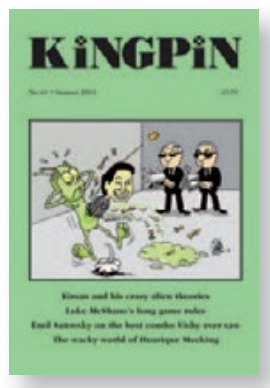
Kortchnoi-Gulko
Amsterdam 1989
position after 31...♕xe2

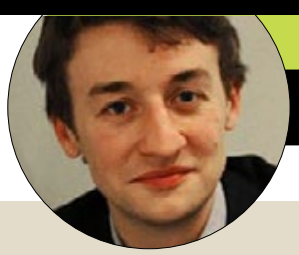


Kingpin 41 now available!

- Kirsan, Gadaffi and the aliens
- the wacky world of Henrique Mecking
- Gary Lane's agony column
- professional grandmaster hazards
- the best combo Vishy ever saw
- and much more!

64 pages • € 6.95 • available at your local (chess)bookseller or at newinchess.com

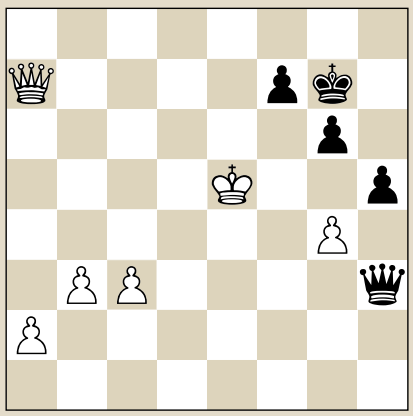




Through the Luking Glass

Joel: Endings with queens are very difficult for me. It seems that the slightest weakness in the king's position results in a perpetual check. Here you are even down material (although White's king admittedly is wide open). Nevertheless, you have no pieces left. How did you decide to go into this ending and, I imagine, with confidence?
Boris: I didn't have time for confidence but I thought I had a perpetual check.

On every other page, the reader is encouraged to join in by means of concrete questions to consider. The 'difficulty levels' seem fairly approximate to me, but the examples are well chosen and cover a variety of tactical and strategic moments. Here's a pretty example, from the same game after Kortchnoi had blundered.



Kortchnoi-Gulko
Amsterdam 1989
position after 37...♕xh3

Calculate and evaluate 38.gxh5. (difficulty level 4)
Joel: I cannot calculate these kinds of positions. I always lose or draw by perpetual check. There are too many possibilities.
Boris: Kortchnoi was also short on time but realized that 38.gxh5? loses because of 38...♕f5+ 39.♔d6 ♕e6+ 40.♔c7 ♕e7+ 41.♔b8 ♕xa7+ 42.♔xa7 g5! and Black's g-pawn will promote with check. To learn these positions, you have to train with studies using similar material. After you solve several of these endgame studies, it will be easier for you to find the correct solution during the game.

This kind of conversation is in line with a theme that runs throughout the book. Dr. Sneed is all too often trying to generalize and draw conclusions (in a perfectly intelligent fashion, I should add). Gulko occasionally speaks in generalities, but just as often emphasizes the concrete aspects of the position. In the introduction, he explains

Sacking the Citadel
Jon Edwards
Russell Enterprises
2011

that 'It seems to me that your background as a scientist may have created some additional problems for your progress in chess. I realized this early on because your method of thinking is too abstract'. Much later on, he returns to the same theme: 'We can't follow rules strictly. There are too many rules and sometimes they contradict each other. Only after we find the right way can we formulate which rule was correct'. This collaboration has produced a book which is very readable, with instructional value for players of many levels (my own included).

Where Gulko tries to avoid formulating rules, the book *Sacking the Citadel: The History, Theory and Practice of the Classic Bishop Sacrifice* takes a very different approach. It is written by Jon Edwards, who won the United States Correspondence Chess Championship in 1997. His interest is in creating a comprehensive taxonomy of the sacrifice initiated by ♗xh7+ and ♘g5+, and understanding the general conditions which determine its success or failure. The backcover informs us that 'Four hundred years ago, an Italian chess master, Gioacchino Greco, discovered an extraordinary bishop sacrifice on h7, that often leads to checkmate or a significant material advantage. More amazing still, he recorded the idea!'. For one thing, I had no idea this sacrifice was attributed to Greco. I might have seen it called 'Greco's sacrifice' in a chess book many years ago but that fact has long since departed my memory. And indeed, the author's insistence that the concept is some kind of cultural phenomenon is what lends this book its interest, an attitude completely at odds with what I would normally think. It makes some sense to talk about a player discovering an opening. But to 'discover' an idea like ♗xh7+ – that's a bit hard to get my head around, which probably just goes to show how much we take for granted in modern chess. The way I see it, in some positions the sacrifice is just there, crying out to be played. Part of me is no more interested in who 'discovered' the sacrifice than, say, which Englishman first discovered an elephant in the zoo, an orange in a supermarket, or a tree in a forest. And yet, Edwards persuaded me to take an interest. He begins with an intriguing account of Gioacchino Greco's life. The following quote he dug up was a highlight for me: 'Around the time of Greco's youth, England's King James I, who was evidently frustrated with the Royal Game, revealed: "I thinke it over fond because it is overwide and Philosophicke a folly. For where all such light playes, are ordained to free mens heads for a time, from the fashious thoughts on their affaires; it by the contrarie filleth and troubleth mens heads, with as many fashious toyes of the play, as it was filled with thoughts on his affaires". ' I believe that's another way of saying that chess is too fiendishly complicated to be a relaxing way of spending your leisure time!

Here's the 'original' sacrifice from the maestro. (If the early games in Megabase are to be believed, Greco faced some real duffers. This unfortunate fellow probably thought he was doing rather well by developing three pieces and castling.)

SUSAN POLGAR INSTITUTE FOR CHESS EXCELLENCE
SPICE
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Would you like to study in the United States?

Here is your opportunity at a major university!

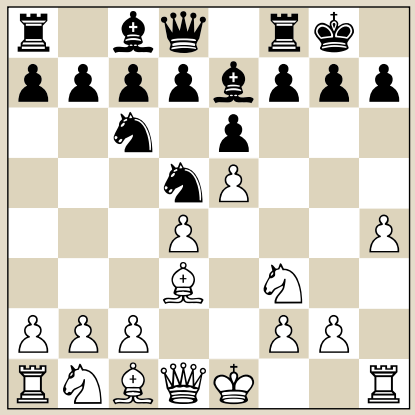
With over 30,000 students, **Texas Tech University** offers 150 undergraduate degree programs through 11 academic colleges, a graduate school and a school of law. We also offer more than 100 master's degree programs and over 50 doctoral degree programs.

Texas Tech students come from all 50 states in the U.S. and more than 90 foreign countries. Scholarships at undergraduate and graduate levels to chess players are available!

SPICE (Susan Polgar Institute for Chess Excellence) at Texas Tech University was founded by Grandmaster **Susan Polgar** in 2007. This is the first chess institute of its kind in the world. The goal of **SPICE** is to be the premier center for chess education, research, technology, and outreach; be a leader in promoting chess as a vehicle for enriching the education of children; to be a leader in promoting women's chess; to support and promote competitive chess; as well as to support one of most elite chess programs.

www.SPICE.ttu.edu
email: spice@ttu.edu

Texas Tech University



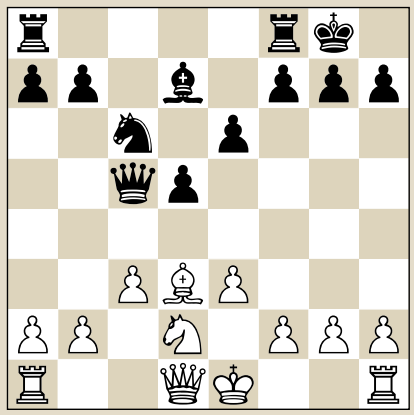
Greco-NN
1620

7.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 8.♘g5+ ♗xg5 9.hxg5+ ♔g6 10.♕h5+ ♔f5 11.♕h7+ g6 12.♕h3+ ♔e4 13.♕d3 Mate

Edwards then looks at the early attempts to investigate and categorize the sacrifice. Erwin Voellmy, we learn, won the Swiss championship three times, in 1911, 1920, and 1922, and wrote an article in 1911 called 'On Attacking the Castled King' which included some examples of the Greco sacrifice, and an attempt to categorize the circumstances which lead to its success. Edwards writes, 'The few readers with copies of Voellmy's original articles will observe that I have written more about Voellmy than he did about Greco's sacrifice. I have done so out of respect and admiration'. He has less time for Znosko-Borovsky's analysis, but does appreciate the more sophisticated taxonomy of Vladimir Vukovic in his still popular book *The Art of Attack in Chess*, which was first published in 1959. We learn the useful guideline that the sacrifice tends to work when White has at least two other pieces supporting the attack (say, a pawn on e5, a bishop on the c1-h6 diagonal, or a well-placed rook). Bizarrely, yet intriguingly, Edwards has indexed the combination of assets which were present when players initiated the sacrifice. One of his observations is that 'the games after 1960, illustrate not just that refined understanding, but also the fact that the games have become more complex, somewhat more frequently requiring three or four additional assets to overcome strong defenses or significant counter-play.'

The majority of the book from there on consists of more than 300 examples of the sacrifice from practical play, many analysed in considerable detail. One thing which comes across well is that very often the consequences of the sacrifice are not at all clear, especially if Black's king advances to g6 after the knight check. Edwards is nothing if not thorough, and even considers examples in which Black counters the sacrifice with a timely ♕xg5!, attributing this observation to Karsten Müller.

To finish, this is a modern example which, perhaps, restored my sense of wonder at the classic sacrifice, and the 307th in this book. With the knight not even able to access g5 directly, and no supporting units, it is astonishing that the sacrifice is playable, let alone strong. Even more astonishing, after seeing this game, I saw the same position arise at last year's Khanty-Mansiysk Olympiad, where the Vietnamese Grandmaster Nguyen Ngoc Truong Son had a chance to repeat the combination.



Prié-Svetushkin
France 2009

13.♗xh7+!! ♔xh7 14.♕h5+ ♔g8 15.♘e4! ♕c4 16.♘g5 ♖fd8 17.♕xf7+ ♔h8 18.♕h5+ ♔g8 19.♕f7+ ♔h8 20.h4
White has a powerful attack, and went on to win. ■

A rare sight. Loek van Wely at a tournament that he didn't participate in. In March he was the second of Anish Giri (here analysing with Boris Gelfand) in Monaco.

Mr. Sabbatical on tour (again)

As you may remember from our January issue, **Loek van Wely** started his widely publicized sabbatical with a tournament win in Berkeley. Was that the (temporarily) last spluttering of a grandmaster badly in need of recharging his batteries? Not really. The Dutchman continued to play in team competitions and told us that he'd be happy to report on a few more American opens that he was going to. We're glad we accepted that offer, as even in 'tourist mode' Van Wely won in Las Vegas and played a prominent part in the World Open. For anyone who remains puzzled he also goes into some detail to explain what a sabbatical really is.

Not so long ago, at the end of May during the French League, I heard somebody ask in his beautiful French accent: 'Mais Monsieur van Wely, what about your sabbatic?' This poor dude, aka 'the Frenchman with two names', felt confused because the definition of 'sabbatical' in his dictionary seemed to be in contrast with what I was doing...

Oh boy, if only he knew that I was going to play 42 games this summer! But OK, just to keep my French friend with two names from having sleepless nights I have made, especially for him, an overview of a few inactive players and himself, so he can see everything in perspective.

1. Peter Leko

Status: taking a rest/having a sabbatical

Goal: to return to top-level chess and play to his abilities, which I believe he hasn't done too often

Number of games played this year : 0

What has Peter been doing meanwhile? Studying chess and working on both his physical and mental state

2. Garry Kasparov

Status: has quit chess

Goal: to rule the world, one way or another

Number of games played this year: 0

What has Garry been doing meanwhile? Playing exhibition games, simuls, blitz, kibitzing, being the Godfather of chess

3. The Frenchman with two names

Mm, let's give him a name. Let's imagine that his name is Maxime, and guessing who he is shouldn't be too difficult. But now comes the hardest part: we will try to imagine that he is the number one player in France (yes, you too, Etienne, try to imagine that).

Status: chess pro, 2700+, the hope of France

Goal: to stay number one in France, qualify for the World Championships Candidates', to beat Monsieur Feller in a match while Monsieur Hauchard is making strange gestures around his board

Number of games played this year: 36

What has Maxime been doing meanwhile? God knows, but trying to decode Hauchard's gestures might be one of the things he has been doing

> 'While I was driving Miss Daisy, Miss Daisy was either sleeping or talking.'

4. Your author

Status: claims he is having a sabbatical / being a chess zombie

Goal: to be a winning player at the nosebleeds (that's poker)

Number of games played this year: 41

What have I been doing meanwhile? Playing leagues, playing poker

So what can we conclude from all this? One thing is for sure, the number of games doesn't mean much.

I am sure that for Nigel and Tivi, the place where a tournament is being held is at least as important as the financial conditions. And although they play a lot, in their shoes it's hard to call yourself a chess pro.

Right now I don't have the illusion of being one. However, I did have some good reasons to play a bit once a while, for we have a new star in Holland these days. I won't keep you in uncertainty for too long this time, but his name seems to be Anish. We have been travelling a lot together, especially to the French League. While I was driving Miss Daisy, Miss Daisy was either sleeping or talking. As you may have understood, his sleeping was not the problem... 'You were lost' or 'How could you play like that?' was his normal way of starting a conversation. Of course, I would object to his points of view and my little friend would realize that things were not that simple. Ever since I have teased him whenever I get a chance. But teasing is not enough, I also need some rating to remain an annoying and nagging factor for Anish. The only problem is that playing chess in your sabbatical is quite dangerous. But there is a solution for that, it's called: playing under the radar!

The idea is to avoid dangerous tournaments like Wijk aan Zee and play some nice and pleasant events, where you are still the predator. Paco can tell you all about this.....

And so I descended from my Olympus to play the National Open in Las Vegas. Sin City, you love it or you hate it, I guess. The usual suspects were back in town, plus one dissident, my good old friend Suat Atalik. It was good to see him again after such a long time. He hadn't changed much, had not even changed his federation again! In fact, his world record of federation – changing got recently crushed by my new compatriot Ivan Sokolov. Last time Ivan played for the Dutch national team, back in 2007, his team mates refused to wake him up, so he missed his flight. And recently, at

SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS!

Chess Opening Essentials Vol. 1-4 Combined

35% off!

10% off!

Karpov's Strategic Wins 1 & 2 Combined

Attacking Chess King's Indian 1 & 2 Combined

15% off!

The Cutting Edge 1 & 2 Combined

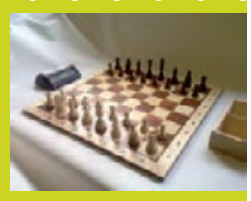
15% off!

ChessCafe Puzzlebook 1, 2 & 3 Combined

20% off!

15% off!

Complete DGT Chess Set Board, Pieces, Clock



more special discounts:

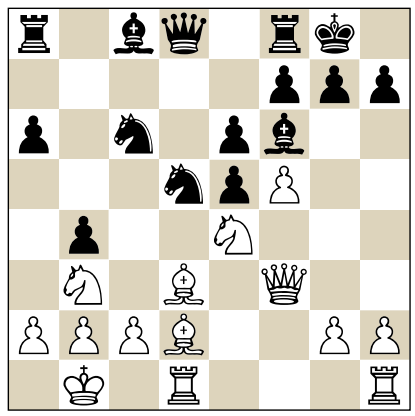
www.newinchess.com

the 2010 Olympiad, Anish Giri asked Ivan after he had blundered a pawn on move 6 or so to Ivanchuk (and as a consequence lost the game): 'So you don't check your openings with a computer?' Welcome back Ivan!

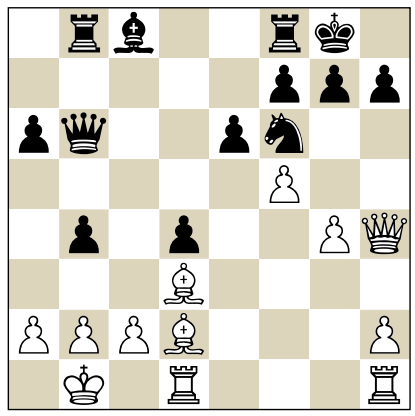
As for me, the tournament in Vegas started as if nothing had changed since I had opted for a sabbatical:

SI 42.2 – B41
Mackenzie Molner
Loek van Wely
Las Vegas 2010

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 a6 5.♗d3 ♗c5 6.♘b3 ♗e7 7.♕g4 ♗f6 8.f4 d6 9.♘c3 ♘c6 10.♗d2 ♘ge7 11.0-0-0 0-0 12.♔b1 b5 13.♕f3 b4 14.e5! dxe5 15.♘e4 ♘d5 16.f5!



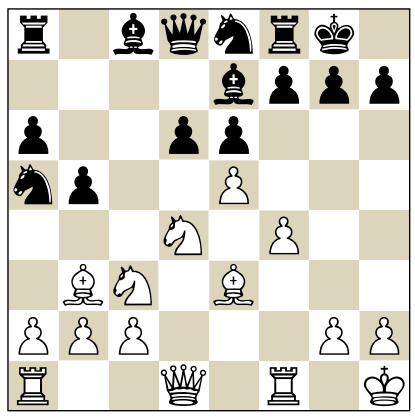
16...♖b8?
Correct was 16...♗e7.
17.g4 ♘d4 18.♘xd4 exd4 19.♕g3 ♕b6 20.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 21.♕h4! And the attack was already unstoppable.



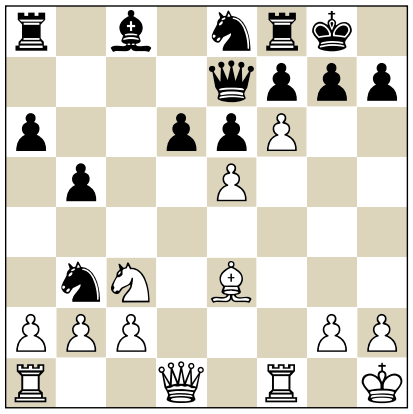
21...♘d5 22.f6 g6 23.♖hf1 e5 24.♗c4 ♘c7 25.♖f3 ♘e8 26.♖df1 e4 27.♖h3 h5 28.gxh5 ♗xh3 29.hxg6 ♗xf1 30.♕h7 Mate.

SI 13.5 – B88
Anranik Matikozian
Loek van Wely
Las Vegas 2011

These have been hard times for Mr. Timman, me playing so little (=losing so little). Hopefully this dose of *schadenfreude* will keep him happy for a while ☺.
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 a6 6.♗c4 e6 7.0-0 ♗e7 8.♗b3 0-0 9.f4 ♘c6 10.♔h1 ♘a5 11.e5 ♘e8 12.♗e3 b5

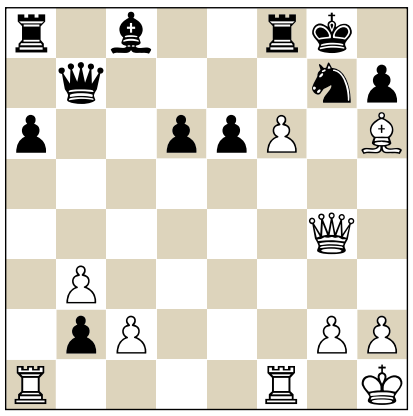


13.f5!?
After the game Suat tells me: 'Don't you know the game #%#$$%...%$&... vs. Botvinnik? And I say, 'Who the hell is @%@#%$...&...?' And Suat goes: 'Don't you know this guy, the best Bulgarian player ever!' (And he didn't mean Topalov...) Later I checked and he meant the game: Neikirkh-Botvinnik. According to Suat, after that game Botvinnik analysed 13.f5 till the end, with the conclusion that it's bad for Black. Mr. Sabbatical supported by Mr. Houdini thinks it's a draw...
13...♘xb3
The narrow path to a draw is: 13...dxe5 14.fxe6! ♘xb3 15.♘c6 ♕d6! 16.♕xd6 ♗xd6 17.axb3 fxe6 (or 17...♗b7 18.♘a5! ♗c8 19.e7! ♗xe7 20.♘d5 ♗d8 21.♗c5) 18.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 19.♘xb5 axb5! 20.♖xa8 ♗b7, and with his 2 bishops Black is at least equal here.
14.♘c6 ♕d7 15.♘xe7+ ♕xe7 16.f6



16...♕b7 The alternatives were no better: 16... ♕c7 17.axb3 dxe5 18.♕g4 g6 19.♗h6 and Black is in trouble; 16...gxf6 17.exf6 ♕b7 18.♗h6 ♘xa1 (18...♔h8 19.♗xf8 ♘xa1 20.♕d2, and mate is coming soon) 19.♕g4+ ♔h8 20.♕g7+, and it's mate in two.

17.axb3 b4 18.♕g4 bxc3 19.fxg7 ♘xg7 20.♗h6 f5 21.exf6 cxb2



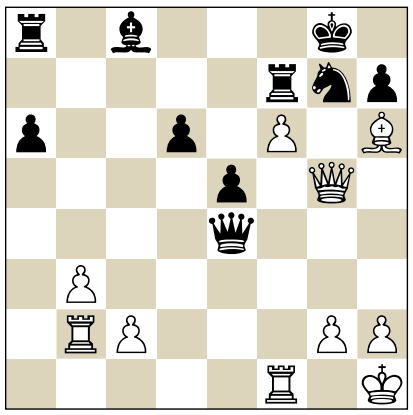
22.♖ab1

Black draws after 22.♗xg7 bxa1♕ 23.♗h6+ ♔h8 24.♗g7+ (and not 24.♕g7+?? ♕xg7 25.fxg7+ ♕xg7, and Black wins). And 22.fxg7 ♖f7 23.♖ab1 ♖a7 clearly favours White.

22...e5 23.♕g5

Quicker was 23.fxg7 ♖xf1+ 24.♖xf1 b1♕ 25.♕c4+.

23...♖f7 24.♖xb2 ♕e4



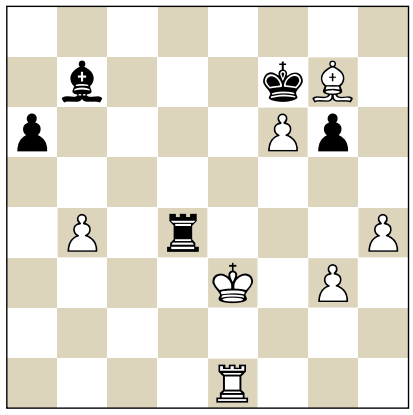
DANIEL MEIROM

Loek van Wely: 'Mr. Sabbatical supported by Mr. Houdini thinks it's a draw...'

25.c4

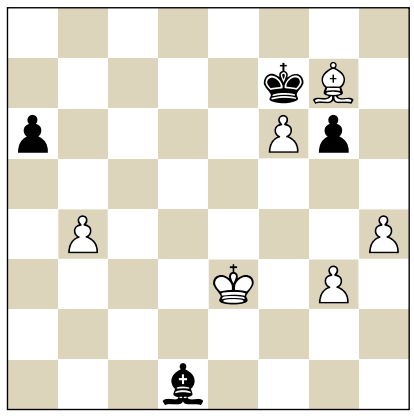
My silicon friend likes to keep the queens on with 25.♗xg7 ♕g6 26.♕c1, but I find White's decision human and more practical.

25...♕g6 26.♕xg6 hxg6 27.♗xg7 ♖d7 28.♖d2 ♗b7 29.h4 ♔f7 30.♔h2 ♖ad8 31.♖e1 e4 32.♔g3 d5 33.cxd5 ♗xd5 34.b4 ♗b7 35.♖xd7+ ♖xd7 36.♔f4 e3 37.g3 ♖d4+ 38.♔xe3



38...♖xb4??

The last interesting moment of the game. I had been hoping that my opponent wouldn't take the pawn on e3, because he was afraid of the opposite-coloured bishop ending. In fact, he was afraid of the opposite-coloured bishop ending, but took the pawn anyway! Unfortunately I thought that the position would be winning for White by zugzwang, but now, after checking it one more time, I realize it's a draw! I should have played 38...♖e4+ 39.♔f2 ♖xe1 40.♔xe1 ♗f3 41.♔f2 ♗d1 42.♔e3



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

42...g5!. I had seen this move, but in fact it doesn't matter, because the zugzwang isn't a real zugzwang anyway: 43.♔e4 gxh4 44.gxh4 ♔g6 45.♔e5 (45.♔d5 ♔f7 46.♔c5 ♔g6 47.♔b6 ♗e2 48.h5+ ♔f7 49.h6 ♔g6, with a draw was misjudgement numero uno: 50.♗f8 – 50.♗h8 ♗c4 – 50...♗d3) 45...♗b3! 46.♗f8 ♔h5!, with a draw (even 46...♗c4 is a draw: 47.♗c5 ♗b3 48.♗e3 ♗c4 49.♗g5 ♗b3 50.♔d6 ♗a2 51.♔c5 ♗b3 52.♔b6 ♗c4 53.♔b7 ♗d3 – or 53...♗e2 54.h5+ ♗xh5 – 54.h5+ ♔f7 55.h6 ♔g6 56.♔b6 ♗e2).

39.♖c1 ♗d5 40.♖c7+ ♔g8 41.♗h6 ♗f7 42.♖c8+ ♔h7 43.♗g7 ♖b3+ 44.♔f4 ♖b4+ 45.♔e5 ♖b5+ 46.♔d6 ♗g8 47.♖f8 ♖d5+ 48.♔c6 ♖f5 49.g4 ♖f4 50.g5 a5 51.♖a8 a4 52.♔d6 ♖d4+ 53.♔e7 ♖b4 54.♖a7 ♖b8 55.♗h6 Black resigned.

After this loss I got very lucky with my pairings: every round I got an upfloat to pick up the lowest-rated player from the group above me, which gave me an easy ride to 5 out of 6. While nevertheless losing 1.3 Elo points, I won 4,800 dollar, which is 3,692.31 dollar per point, Zurab!

My best friend (the guy I have been referring to in earlier articles as the one who doesn't know how time difference works – so he calls at 4 a.m. in the morning – or as the guy who tries to call me during the game – just to check if my phone is still on ☺ - or the guy who tells me during my game with Gelfand that he likes my position with the 2 bishops, while in fact it was Gelfand who was having the bishops, this guy) now thinks he knows how the Elo system works. He told me it would be nice to get my Elo back to 0 then. This time I have to agree with him: for 9.9 million dollar I am ready to sell my soul (and my ego) ☺.

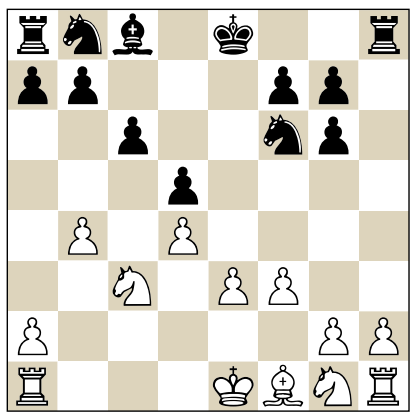
Chesswise, I had the feeling that guys like Samuel Shankland and Ray Robson deserved to tie for first at least, but in the end it was only Varuzhan Akobian who managed to catch me:

QO 11.3 – D31
Giorgi Kacheishvili
Varuzhan Akobian
Las Vegas 2011

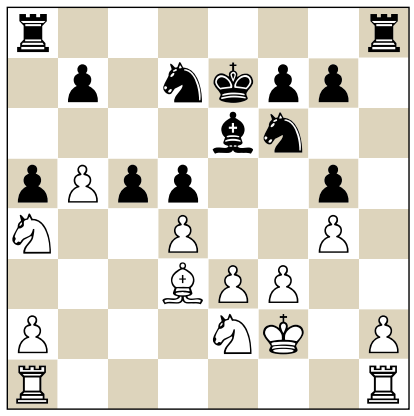
1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗e7 4.cxd5 exd5 5.♗f4 c6 6.♕c2 ♗d6 7.♗xd6 ♕xd6 8.e3 ♕g6 9.♕xg6 hxg6 10.b4 ♘f6
In their match in St. Louis, Pono played 10...a6 against Naka and lost. But I think this line is pretty lousy for Black anyway.
11.f3
What about 11.b5!?

BETSY DYNAKO

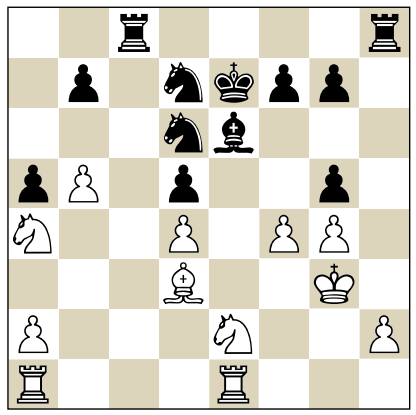
Varuzhan Akobian's prayers were heard. In the last round of the National Open he caught up with Mr. Sabbatical.



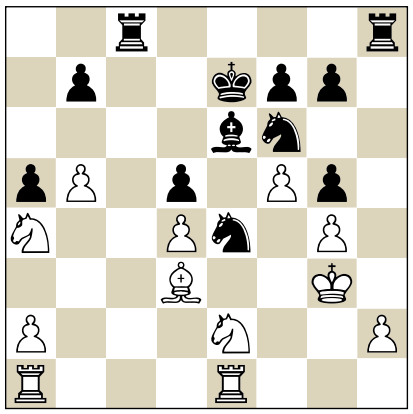
11...g5 12.g4 ♗e6 13.♗d3
I also like 13.♘h3, with the idea to reroute the knight to f2-d3.
13...♘bd7 14.♔f2 ♔e7 15.♘ge2 a5 16.b5 c5 I guess Black is already quite happy here, but to win it is another story. **17.♘a4**



17...♖ac8
My comp likes to play 17...c4 and gives Black an advantage, but unless there is something deep tactically, I find this a serious positional concession.
18.♔g3 cxd4 19.exd4 ♘e8 20.♖he1 20.h4 to vacate f4 for the knight makes sense.
20...♘d6 21.f4



21...♘f6?
Strange complications would have arisen after 21...gxf4+ 22.♘xf4 ♘e4+ 23.♗xe4 dxe4 24.d5 g5 25.♘g6+!? (OK, OK, I confess, this is a typical computer suggestion ☺) 25...fxg6 26.♖xe4 ♔d8 (this one, too, btw!) 27.dxe6 ♘f6.
22.f5 ♘de4+

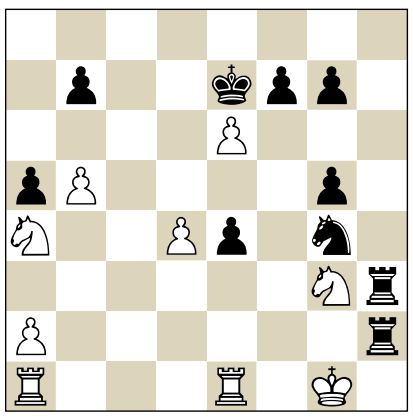


23.♔g2?

Concrete play with 23.♗xe4 ♘xe4+ 24.♔g2 ♗d7 25.♘b6 should have been calculated! In that case c8 and d5 are hanging, and a4 to close down Black's bishop is a threat.

23...♘xg4! Too good to be true. The position will go through a complete transformation now.

24.♗xe4 dxe4 25.fxe6 ♖xh2+ 26.♔g1 ♖ch8 27.♘g3 ♖8h3



28.♘f1??

A tougher defence would have been 28.♘xe4 f5 29.♘ac3 fxe4 30.♘xe4 ♘e3 31.♖xe3 ♖xe3 32.♔xh2 ♖xe4 33.♖c1 ♔xe6 34.♖c7 ♖xd4 35.♖xb7, with some drawing chances.

28...♖h1+ 29.♔g2 f5 30.♖ac1 f4 31.♖c7+ ♔d8 White resigned.

Next stop: World Open

Having spent one more week in Las Vegas donking my money away in poker and touring through Nevada, Arizona and Utah, your author was broke again. Time to look for a way to reload my bankroll: the World Open in Philadelphia! Unfortunately, the competition in the World Open is always very tough, because for some reason everybody thinks he has a chance to take home the first prize ☺. And when people start believing in themselves, it may not be so simple to play them.

> 'I had managed to beat Kamsky and Smirin, things started to look really promising. Unfortunately, I got punished, not for the first time and definitely not the last time either, for my big mouth.'

This reminds me of a story Genna Sosonko once told me. Mikhail Tal was invited to a mental hospital to play chess with a patient who believed he was the World Champion. To Tal's surprise it was only after a very hard fight that he managed to win. Later they invited Tal back, but this time his opponent lost like a child. The doctors explained why: in the meantime he had been cured ☺.

Still, in an attempt to be objective, I have to admit that two players were a clear threat to me taking home the first prize: Gata Kamsky and Michael Adams. Sometimes you hear people complain about top GMs enjoying the protected environment of elite tournaments instead of having to prove themselves in the jungle of the open tournaments. Maybe they should have a look at the ease with which Ivanchuk won Gibraltar. And this World Open was no exception to this rule either. Mr. Sabbatical also had some secret hopes, but those were not based on reason: switching from tourism to playing chess is pretty hard. Still, after I had managed to beat Kamsky and Smirin, things started to look really promising. Unfortunately, I got punished, not for the first time and definitely not the last time either, for my big mouth. To explain what I mean I have to quote from my conversation during the French League with the Frenchman with two names after his game against Solodovnichenko.

LvW: Did you not analyse this move ...♕d6?

MVL: Oh no, I forgot my analysis.

LvW: Maybe you'd like to buy my analyses? I don't need them anymore and I will make special price for you!

MVL: Oh no, my analysis is deeper and better than yours...

"Een heerlijk blad voor bij de open haard" **Het Parool**

- Met Magnus Carlsen naar Ajax: een drama in drie bedrijven
- Jan Timman: Ulf Andersson en de geborgenheid van een veilgie stelling
- De streken van Don Luis Rentero
- Carel van den Berg en de tijdnoodwolf
- Pummels, schizofrenen en maniakken: schaken in de wereldliteratuur
- en veel meer

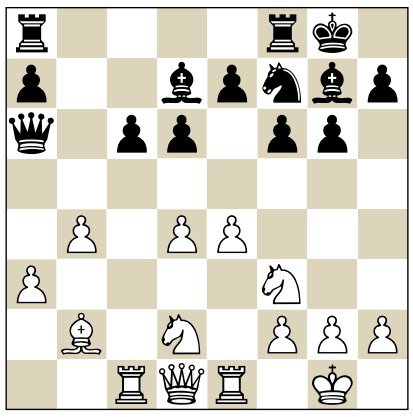
MATTEN 9 nu verkrijgbaar ♦ 128 pagina's ♦ € 12,95 ♦ www.mattenschaakverhalen.nl

LvW: For that you haven't lived long enough yet, my friend...

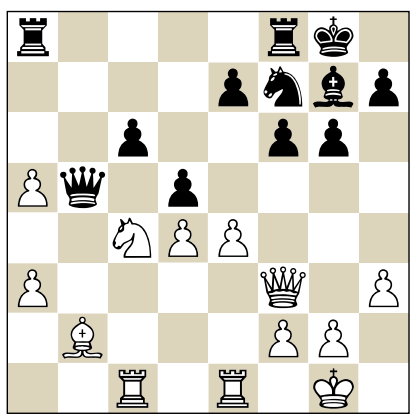
Indeed, 17 years ago I did analyse this line together with Jeroen Piket, and in my crucial Round 7 game against Harikrishna I decided to play sharply and chose the Botvinnik Variation of the Slav. And yes, the position after ...♕d6 appeared on the board again! I am not sure if Harikrishna knew exactly what he was doing, but he was definitely trying harder to win than the Frenchman with two names. I shouldn't have lost but that's not relevant. After this loss of mine Adams and Kamsky took over. They went through the tournament in their typical way: hardly making any mistakes and squeezing their opponents.

SI 31.7 – B31
Michael Adams
Jaan Ehlvest
Philadelphia 2011 (4)

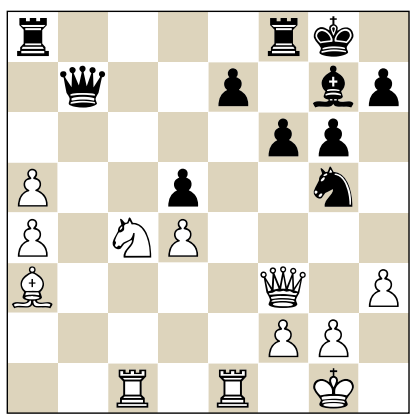
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5
Mickey's pet line.
3...g6 4.♗xc6 bxc6 5.0-0 ♗g7 6.♖e1 ♘h6 7.c3 0-0 8.d4 ♕b6 9.♘bd2 cxd4 10.cxd4 d6 11.b3 f6 12.♗b2 ♘f7 13.♖c1 ♕a6 14.a3 ♗d7 15.b4



Now White just needs ♘c4-♘a5, and Black is still solid but also quite passive. A type of position I cannot recommend against Mickey.
15...♕b5 16.♘c4 a5
Now there follows concrete, move-by-move play.
17.bxa5 ♗g4 18.h3 ♗xf3 19.♕xf3 d5



When Jaan made this move, I saw Mickey swallow. Had he missed this move? Because at first sight it looks as if White is going to lose a piece.
20.a4 ♕b7 21.exd5 cxd5 22.♗a3 ♘g5 The point, but:



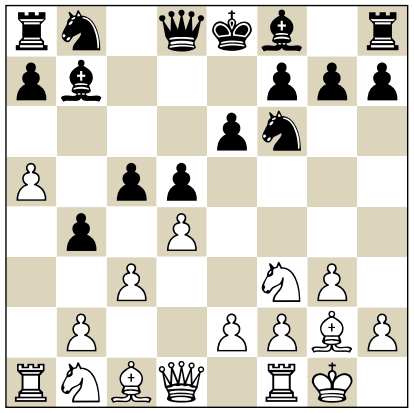
23.♕e2!
This seems to be OK for White, in fact even more than OK.
23...♖fe8

Good or bad, 23...dxc4 had to be played: 24.♕xc4+ e6 (24...♔h8 25.♖xe7 ♕a6 26.h4 ♕xc4 27.♖xc4 ♘f7 28.♖d7; 24...♖f7 25.♖xe7 ♕b8 26.a6! ♗f8 27.♖b7) 25.♗xf8 ♗xf8 26.h4 ♘f7 27.♖xe6 ♖xa5 28.♖xf6.
24.h4 ♘f7 25.♖b1 ♕a6 26.♘b6 ♕xe2 27.♖xe2 ♖xa5 28.♖xe7 ♖xe7 29.♗xe7 ♗f8 30.♗xf6 ♘d6 31.♘d7 ♗g7 32.♗xg7 ♔xg7 33.♖b4 Black resigned.

And here is a sample of Gata's play.

QP 6.7 – A46
Gata Kamsky
Leonid Yudasin
Philadelphia 2011 (5)

I guess Gata was pretty mad after his loss to me, so he was ready to bounce back hard.
1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.g3 b5 4.♗g2 c5 5.c3 ♗b7 6.0-0 d5 7.a4 b4 8.a5



8...bxc3?!
I dont like this opening up of the position while Black is so far behind in development.
9.♘xc3 ♘a6?!
Giving White too much control in the centre.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITION!
Yearbook 100
- bumper issue with dozens of extra pages
- appears September 15
- with lists of highlighs
- special surveys with lots of novelties
- contests with wonderful prizes

APPEARS SEPTEMBER 15

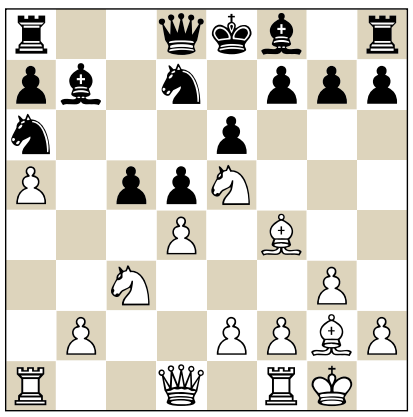
✚ a stunning secret from the laptop of the man who is probably still the world's greatest opening expert ...

check www.newinchess.com

TARA MACGOWRAN

Top-favourites Gata Kamsky and Mickey Adams lived up to expectations and tied for first. In the Armageddon game the U.S. Champion prevailed to take the World Open title.

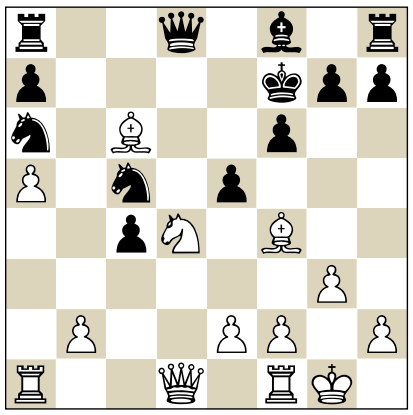
10.♘e5 ♘d7 11.♗f4



11...f6?

But this is *really* asking for it.

12.♘c4 cxd4 13.♘b5 dxc4 14.♗xb7 e5 15.♘xd4! ♘dc5 16.♗c6+ ♔f7



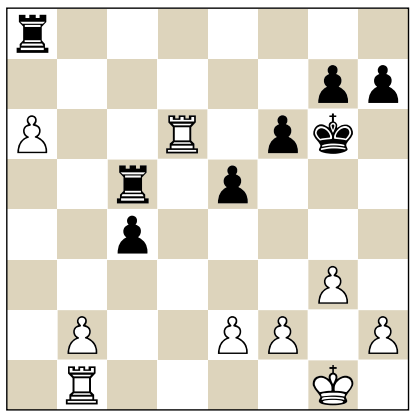
17.♘b5

Very strong was 17.♕c1!.

17...♕xd1 18.♖axd1 ♖b8 19.♗e3

There was a better square for the bishop: 19.♗d2!.

19...♘b4 20.♘xa7 ♘xc6 21.♘xc6 ♖c8 22.♘d8+ ♔g6 23.♖d5 ♗e7 24.♗xc5 ♗xc5 25.♘b7 ♗d4 26.♖b1 ♖c7 27.a6 ♖a8 28.♖d6 ♗c5 29.♘xc5 ♖xc5



And now it's just a technical win. When that moment arrives you know that against Gata you are doomed.

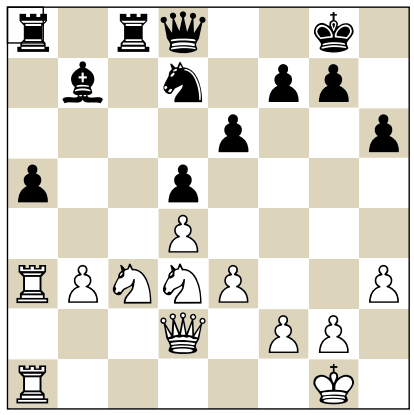
30.♖a1 ♖b5 31.♖a2 ♖a7 32.♖c6 ♖b4 33.♔f1 ♔f7 34.♔e1 ♔e7 35.♔d2 ♔d7 36.♖c5 ♔d6 37.♖ca5 ♖b3 38.♔c2 ♔c6 39.♖5a3 ♖xa3 40.♖xa3 h5 41.♔c3 ♔b5 42.h4 ♔c5 43.♖a5+

Black resigned.

As Adams and Kamsky both finished on 7/9, an Armageddon game had to decide on the World Open title. For unknown reasons Mickey chose to play with black, having three minutes on the clock, while Kamsky, with five minutes, had to win. I know that Kamsky loves to take black with drawing odds, so maybe Mickey tried some reversed psychology... Anyway, it backfired very badly!

QP 5.3 – A46
Gata Kamsky
Michael Adams
Philadelphia 2011 Armageddon

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.♗f4 b6 4.e3 ♗b7 5.h3 c5 6.c3 cxd4 7.cxd4 ♗e7 8.♘c3 0-0 9.♗d3 d5 10.0-0 a6 11.♖c1 ♘c6 12.♕e2 b5 13.a4 bxa4 14.♘xa4 ♘b4 15.♗c7 ♕e8 16.♘b6 ♘xd3 17.♕xd3 ♖a7 18.♘e5 a5 19.♖fd1 ♗b4 20.♕c2 ♕b5 21.♘d3 ♗e7 22.♘a4 ♖c8 23.♘c3 ♕e8 24.♗b6 ♖aa8 25.♖a1 ♗d8 26.♗xd8 ♕xd8 27.♘c5 ♗c6 28.♖a3 ♘d7 29.♘d3 h6 30.♖da1 ♗b7 31.♕d2 ♘b6 32.b3 ♘d7



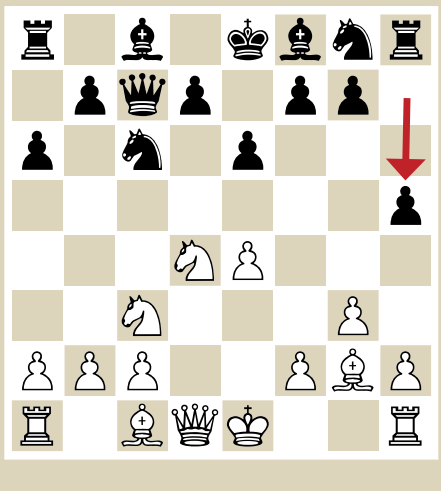
33.♘a4 ♗a6 34.♘dc5 ♗b5 35.♘xd7 ♗xd7 36.♘c5 ♗b5 37.♖xa5 ♖xa5 38.♖xa5 ♖b8 39.♖a7 ♕b6 40.♕a2 g6 41.♖a8 ♔g7 42.♖xb8 ♕xb8 43.♕a5 h5 44.h4 ♗e2 45.b4 ♗c4 46.♘d7 ♕d6 47.♘e5 ♕e7 48.b5 1-0 ■

SECRETS OF OPENING SURPRISES

An unusual Taimanov

Jeroen Bosch

7...h5!?



SI 40.6 – B47
Alexander Berelowitsch
Francisco Vallejo
Germany Bundesliga 2010/11

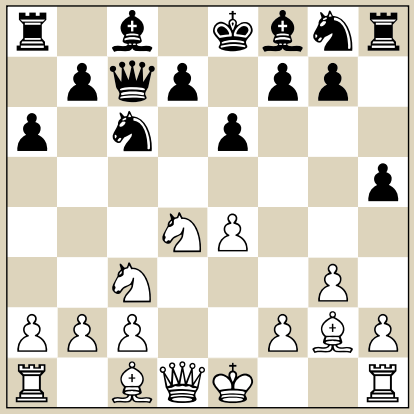
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e6 5.♘c3 ♕c7

The Taimanov Variation of the Sicilian, which these days is often met by 6.♗e3, followed by 7.♕d2 and queenside castling. One of White's main (and most solid) options has always been the kingside fianchetto, though.

6.g3

Many top players favour 6.g3, but Michael Adams deserves special mention as the main supporter of this line.

6...a6 7.♗g2 h5!?



Attaboy! It is unusual in such a theory-heavy opening as the Sicilian to see a top player like Vallejo leave the well-trodden paths at such an early stage in the game. The audacious 7...h5 was first played by Bent Larsen in a period when he experimented with many opening ideas. The launch of the h-pawn may remind you of coffee-house chess (or ICC blitz), but it really isn't just about attacking bluntly on the kingside. Positionally speaking, the move 7...h5 is quite sound:

1. To stop the h-pawn in its tracks White would have to play 8.h4 here, which weakens the g4-square (as f4 is a normal part of White's plan).

2. Playing 8.h3, to meet 8...h4 with 9.g4, on the other hand, weakens the dark squares.

3. Allowing Black to play ...h4 gives him the opportunity to open the h-file whenever he wants to, and also weakens the g4-square somewhat (in these fianchetto lines White often wants to play h3 to protect g4, but this isn't possible when Black and White have exchanged their h-pawns on g3).

The main line is 7...♘f6 (your database will easily list some 3500 games!), but we do well to remember that 7...d6 8.0-0 ♗d7 9.♖e1 ♗e7 10.♘xc6 ♗xc6 11.♕g4 h5!? 12.♕e2 h4 is another not unpopular line that scores very decently for Black: 13.a4 hxg3 14.hxg3 ♘f6 is then the normal continuation.

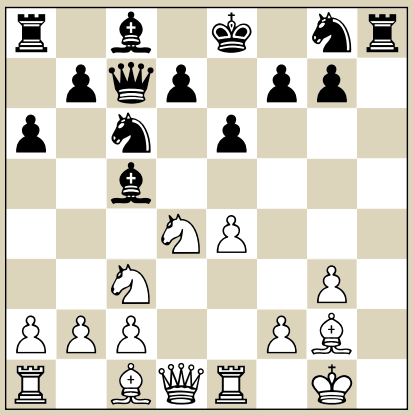
8.h3

A logical response to the threat of ...h5-h4.

■ Ignoring the advance of the h-pawn is possible: 8.0-0, castling into the storm, or obtaining a useful edge in development?

8...h4 9.♖e1 hxg3 10.hxg3 ♗c5 (Black fights for the initiative; not 10...♘f6 11.♘d5! – 11.♘xc6 bxc6 12.e5 ♘d5

is OK for Black – 11...exd5 12.♘xc6 bxc6 13.exd5+ ♔d8 14.dxc6, and White has great compensation for the piece). Now:



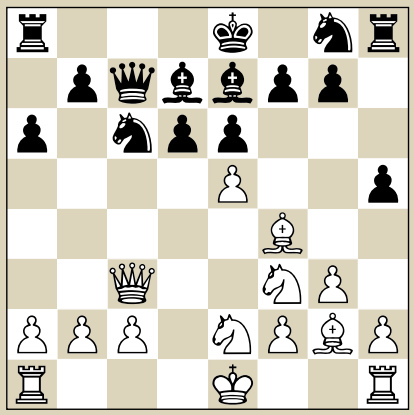
– 11.♗e3 ♘e5 12.♗f4?! (12.♘f5! ♗xe3 – too dangerous is 12...exf5? 13.♘d5 ♕d6 14.♗xc5 ♕xc5 15.exf5 – 13.♘xe3 is slightly better for White, while 13.♘d6+ ♔f8 14.♖xe3 ♘f6 is less clear) 12...d6 13.♘b3 ♗a7 14.♕e2 ♘f6 15.♖ad1 b5 is an ideal Sicilian for Black. His positional advantages are obvious, while his king is relatively safe in the centre: 16.♘d4 ♗d7 17.♘f3 ♘fg4! 18.♖f1 b4 19.♘xe5 ♘xe5 20.♘b1 ♗b5, and Black won an exchange and soon afterwards the game in S.Collins-A. Kogan, Port Erin 2002.

– 11.♘xc6 is a very decent alternative: 11...bxc6 (11...dxc6? 12.e5±) 12.e5! ♘e7 (12...f5!?) 13.♗g5 (13.♘e4!) 13...♔f8 14.♘a4 ♗a7 15.♗e3 (15.c4!?) 15...♗xe3 16.♖xe3 ♘f5 17.♖b3 ♖b8 18.♘c5?! ♖b5! 19.♖xb5? cxb5 20.b4 ♕xe5, and although the win is still not that easy, Black clearly had the upper hand in Ocantos-R.Swinkels, Maastricht 2010.

– Black should meet 11.♘b3 with 11...♗e7 (11...♗a7 12.♗f4), when he should be happy to have achieved the withdrawal of the knight from the centre, for example 12.a4 d6 13.a5 ♘f6, with about equal chances.

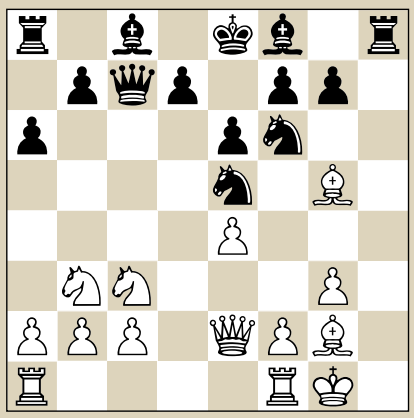
– 11.♗f4!? is a very concrete attempt. Black must reply with 11...e5, when it all depends on 12.♘d5 ♕b8 and now 13.♘xc6 (13.♘b3 exf4 14.♘xc5 fxg3 with sharp play. Black has achieved a lot on the kingside, but White has an advantage in development) 13...dxc6 (if 13...dxc6 is too mundane for you, then you may well wish to investigate the sharp 13...♗xf2+ 14.♔xf2 bxc6) 14.♗e3 ♗xe3 15.♘xe3 ♗e6 is equal.

■ White can prevent ...h4 by withdrawing his knight to f3, but this is harmless: 8.♘f3 ♗e7 9.♗f4 d6 10.♕d2 ♘e5 11.♘e2 ♗d7 12.♕c3!? ♘c6!? 13.e5



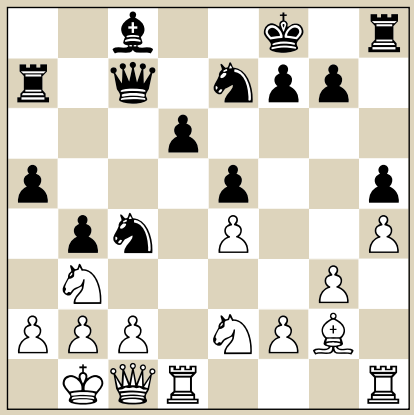
13...d5! (13...dxe5 14.♗xe5 ♕b6 15.♗xg7 ♗b4 16.♗xh8 is unclear) 14.a3 ♖c8 15.h4 ♘h6 16.0-0 ♘g4, and Black was better in the stem game Terkelsen-Larsen, Aarhus 1959.

■ Moving the knight to b3 has also occurred in practice. This immediately gives Black an easy game. 8.♘b3 h4 9.0-0 (9.♗f4 ♘e5) 9...hxg3 10.hxg3 ♘f6 11.♕e2 ♘e5 12.♗g5



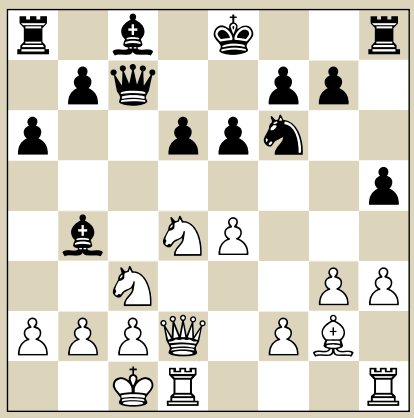
and now Black has many good options to obtain the better game: 12...♗b4 (12...♘fg4; 12...d6; 12...b5) 13.♘d1 ♕c4 14.♕xc4 ♘xc4, and Black had a very comfortable queenless middlegame in Misailovic-Kontic, Cetinje 1992.

■ 8.h4 – stopping the cheeky rascal in its tracks. Let's follow the example of Spanish GM Arthur Kogan: 8...♗c5 9.♘b3 ♗a7 10.♗f4. It's normal to develop the bishop to f4 (moving a pawn to f4 would accentuate the weakness of square g4). 10...♘e5 11.♕e2 d6 12.0-0-0 ♘e7 (12...♘f6!?) 13.♗e3 b5 14.♗xa7 ♖xa7 15.♕d2?! (15.f4) 15...♘c4 16.♕g5 (a shot in the dark; the black king doesn't mind moving to f8 anyway) 16...b4 17.♘e2 ♔f8 18.♔b1 e5! 19.♕c1 a5!



and Black's chances are to be preferred, Remiro Juste-Kogan, Spain 2004.

■ 8.♗e3 ♘f6 (8...h4 is a bit rash when White hasn't castled kingside and has spent no time on preventing ...h4. White could, for instance, play 9.♘xc6 bxc6 10.♕d4, intending to castle queenside) 9.h3. White reacts belatedly to the threat of ...h4. With his next move Black exploits the early development of the bishop to e3: 9...♘e5! 10.♕e2 ♗b4 11.♗d2 ♘c4 12.0-0-0 ♘xd2 13.♕xd2 d6. White has no compensation for having lost the important dark-squared bishop. Black has a slight edge.

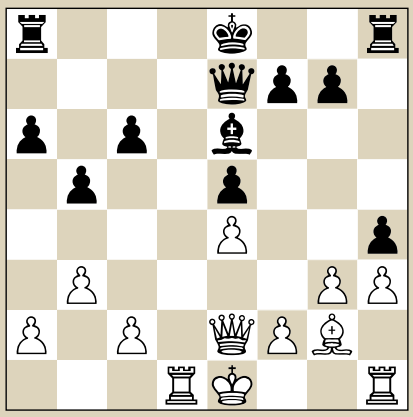


14.♘de2 ♗d7 15.♕g5 (just like in our previous example, this yields nothing) 15...♔f8! 16.♖d2 ♖c8 17.

Jeroen Bosch

♖hd1 ♗c5 18.♔b1 ♖h6 19.♖d3 b5 20.a3 a5! favoured Black in Heidenfeld-Miladinovic, Leon 2001.

■ A concession is 8.♘xc6, when after 8...dxc6 (8...bxc6) 9.♗e3 ♘f6 10.h3 e5 Black has obtained an equal game: 11.♘a4 ♘d7 12.♕d2 b5 13.♘c3 ♗e7 14.♖d1?! ♘b6 15.♕e2 (15.b3) 15...♗e6 (15...h4). This enables White to exchange some pieces: 16.♗xb6! ♕xb6 17.♘d5! ♕a7 18.♘xe7 ♕xe7 19.b3?! h4!



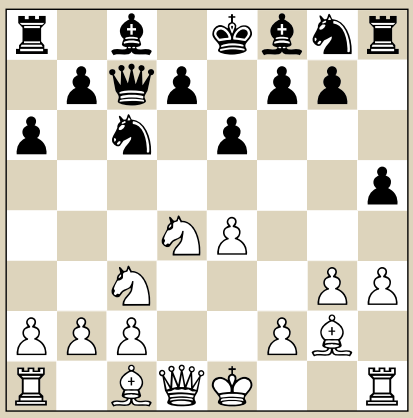
20.g4?! ♕b4+ 21.♕d2 ♕xd2+ 22.♖xd2 ♔e7, and due to the weak dark squares on the kingside White is worse, Draganova-Djingarova, Veliko Tarnovo 2005. Here we see illustrated one of the main positional ideas behind 7...h5.

■ 8.f4, and now:

– I would recommend 8...b5!?, when 9.♘xc6 (9.e5 ♗b7) 9...♕xc6 10.♕e2 ♗b7 is fine for Black.

– 8...h4?! 9.♗e3 (9.g4) 9...hxg3 10.hxg3 ♖xh1+ 11.♗xh1, with a slight advantage for White.

– 8...d6?! 9.♗e3 ♗d7 10.♘xc6 ♗xc6 11.♕e2 ♗e7 12.♗d4 e5 13.♗e3 ♗f6? 14.0-0-0! and Black's plan has failed completely. Genzling-Vila Gazquez, Sibenik 2007.

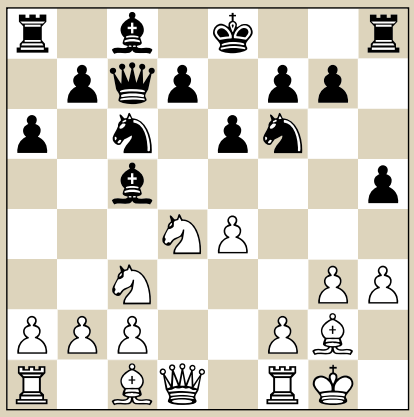


8...h4

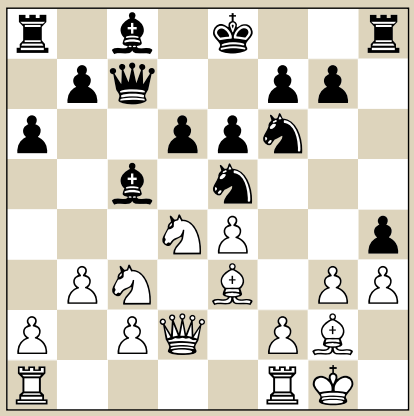
This is certainly consistent, but not the only move to consider.

– 8...♗c5?! 9.♘xc6 dxc6 10.♕e2 e5 11.♗e3, as played in Garcia Brion-Vila Gazquez, La Pineda de Vila 2009, is slightly better for White. Normally, in such positions taking on c6 promises little, but here the inclusion of ...h5 and h3 favours White. White will castle queenside and Black will find it difficult to equalize.

– 8...♘f6 9.0-0 ♗c5

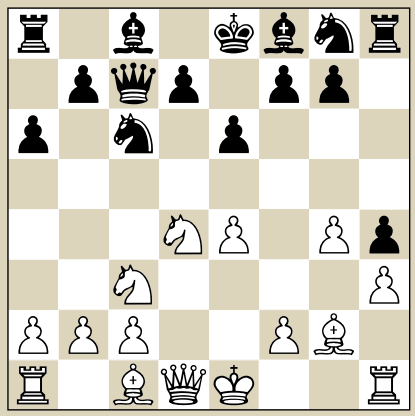


is a position that has occurred in several games (sometimes via the move order 7...♘f6 8.0-0 h5!?). This is playable. One fairly recent example between two strong grandmasters is Sutovsky-Safarli, Baku 2010: 10.♗e3 (10.♘b3 ♗a7 11.♗f4 ♘e5 12.♕e2 d6 13.♖ad1 b5 14.♘c1? b4 was a clear edge in Makka-Lanchava, Varna 2002; 10.♘xc6 dxc6 11.e5!? ♕xe5 12.♗f4 is a decent pawn sacrifice that has occurred in practice) 10...d6 11.♕d2 ♘e5 (after 11...♘xd4 12.♗xd4 ♗xd4 13.♕xd4 e5 14.♕d2 h4 the chances are equal) 12.b3 h4!



13.f4 (13.g4? ♘fxg4 14.hxg4 h3 15.♗h1 h2+ 16.♔g2 ♘xg4 with long-term positional compensation for the piece) 13...♘g6 14.g4 e5! 15.fxe5 dxe5 16.♘f5 (16.♘de2) 16...♗xf5 17.exf5 ♘f4 18.♖ae1 ♖d8 19.♕f2 ♘xg2 20.♗xc5 ♘xe1 21.♖xe1, and the players, somewhat surprisingly, agreed on a draw. Objectively, White seems to be struggling to prove that he has enough for the exchange.

9.g4



9...♘ge7

Taimanov's favourite knight manoeuvre in his very own Sicilian. Vallejo aims to control as many dark squares as possible, which is why the knight should be developed to e7 (and not to f6) and from there to g6 or c6.

Black can also opt for the immediate knight swap, followed by ...♘e7: 9...♘xd4 10.♕xd4 ♘e7 11.♗e3 b5 12.0-0 (12.0-0-0!?) 12...♘c6 13.♕d1 (13.♕d2) 13...♗b7 14.♘e2 (14.f4 ♘a5∓) 14...♘e5 15.b3 ♖c8 16.c3 ♗c5, and Black was quite happy with the outcome of the opening, Radovanovic-Bakic, Kladovo 1992.

10.♘de2

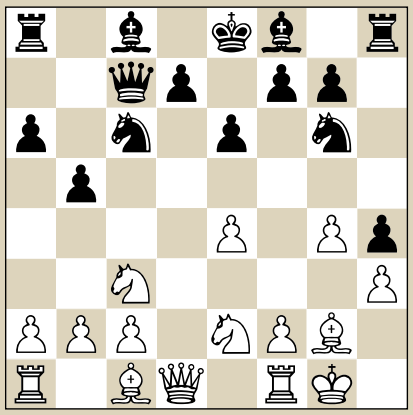
Berelowitsch avoids the knight swap but Black doesn't really mind. In fact, Black's knight is fairly useful on g6, while there is no real future for the 'superfluous' knight on e2 (as square g3 is controlled by Black's h-pawn).

In case of 10.♗e3, Black should continue 10...♘e5 (rather than 10...♘xd4 11.♕xd4 ♘c6 12.♕b6, with a slight edge for White), when he is doing OK. After 10.0-0 the exchange of knights is best though: 10...♘xd4 11.♕xd4 ♘c6 12.♕e3 (12.♕d1 ♗c5) 12...♘e5.

10...♘g6 11.0-0

Instead, 11.f4 weakens the diagonal g1-a7. After 11...♗c5 12.e5 d5 13.exd6 Black should not exchange queens (13...♕xd6?! 14.♕xd6! ♗xd6 15.♘e4, with a slight advantage for White, Marinkovic-Kontic, Podgorica 1993, or 15.♗e3 ♗c7 16.0-0-0, with a slight advantage for White), but play 13...♗xd6.

11...b5



12.a3

Black may reject the sacrificial 12.a4 b4 13.♘d5!? with 13...♕a5, but he can also accept the piece with 13...exd5 14. exd5 ♘d8 (14...♗d6 15.dxc6 dxc6 16. ♘d4 0-0), and now:

– 15.♖e1 ♗d6;

– 15.♘f4!? ♘xf4 16.♖e1+ ♘de6 17. ♗xf4 (17.dxe6 ♘xh3+!) 17...♕xf4 18. dxe6 fxe6 19.♗xa8 ♗d6, with sufficient compensation for the exchange;

– 15.d6 ♕b8 16.♗xa8 ♕xa8 17.♖e1 ♘e6 favours Black.

12...♗c5 13.♔h1 ♗b7

Black has a very agreeable Taimanov Sicilian. Note that the h4 pawn is more a strength than a weakness. Vallejo makes all his useful moves first, before finally castling kingside.

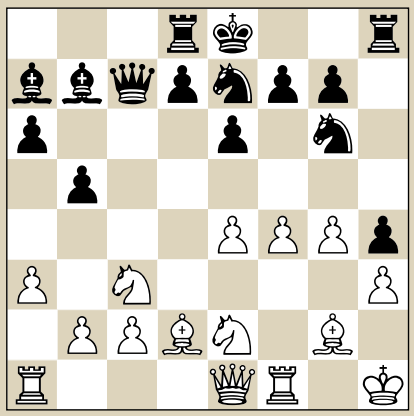
14.f4 ♖d8!? 15.♕e1 ♗a7 16. ♗d2

White understandably wants to finish his development, but this passive move gives Black plenty of leeway.

Best is perhaps 16.f5 ♗b8 (16...♘ge5 17.♗f4) 17.♘f4 ♘ge5.

After 16.e5 Black can advantageously sacrifice a piece with 16... ♘cxe5!? (16...♘d4 17.♘xd4 ♗xg2+ 18.♔xg2 ♗xd4 is also fine) 17.fxe5 ♗xg2+ 18.♔xg2 ♕c6+ 19.♔h2 ♘xe5, when he will regain his material with interest: 20.♗f4 (20.♘g1 ♗xg1+ 21.♔xg1 ♘f3+ 22.♖xf3 ♕xf3 23.♕e3 ♕xe3+ 24.♗xe3) 20...♘f3+ 21.♖xf3 ♕xf3.

16...♘ce7



17.♘c1?

Improving the position of the poorly placed knight, but it was necessary to anticipate ...d5.

– 17.♖d1 is also met by 17...d5.

– 17.f5!? ♗b8 18.♘f4 ♘e5, and now Black has good dark-square control after 19.♗e3 g5! 20.fxg6 ♘7xg6 21. ♘xg6 ♘xg6 22.♗g1 but White is still fully in the game too.

17...d5! 18.♘d3

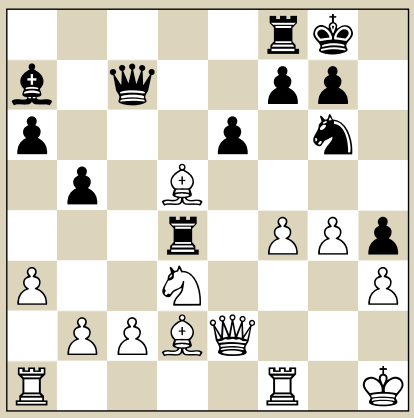
18.exd5 ♘xd5 19.♘d3 0-0 20.♘xd5 ♗xd5 21.♗xd5 ♖xd5 is very pleasant for Black, as is 18.e5 0-0.

18...dxe4 18...0-0!?. **19.♗xe4 ♖d4!?** Enterprising play by Vallejo. 19...0-0 is the simple way.

20.♗f3?! 20.♗xb7 ♕xb7+ 21.♔h2.

20...0-0 21.♕e2 ♘d5 22.♘xd5 ♗xd5 23.♗xd5?!

23.♗e3 looks like the best way to keep Black's advantage within drawing limits.



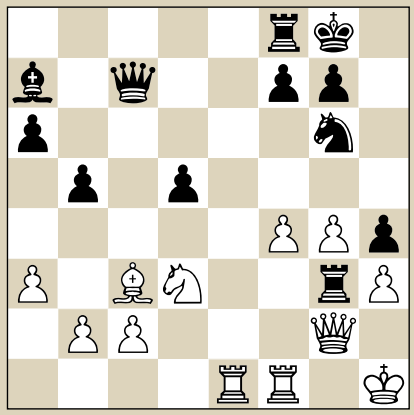
23...exd5!

Well-played! The isolated pawn provides Black with a useful stronghold on e4.

24.♗c3 ♖e4 25.♕g2 ♖e3 26. ♖ae1?

26.♖f3 was the only move, but White is in deep trouble after 26...♖xf3 27.♕xf3 ♖e8 when 28.♕xd5 ♖e3! is hard to meet, and most other moves will lose a pawn somewhere.

26...♖g3



Well, that h-pawn certainly came in useful!

27.♕xd5 White can resign after 27.♕h2 d4.

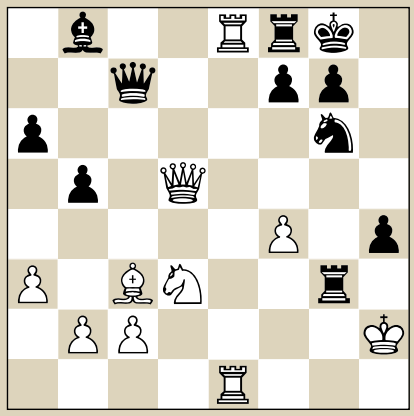
27...♖xh3+ 28.♔g2 ♖g3+ 29.♔h2 ♖xg4 30.♖e4 ♖g3

Even stronger was 30...♕c8!, with the threat of 31...♖g2+.

31.♖fe1 ♗b8

The easiest win was 31...♕c8 32.f5 ♖g5!, but Vallejo finishes in style:

32.♖e8



32...♖xd3! 33.♖xf8+ ♘xf8 34.♕xd3

Or 34.cxd3 ♕xf4+ 35.♔g1 h3.

34...♕xf4+ 35.♔g2 ♕h2+ 36.♔f1

36.♔f3 h3, and Black wins.

36...♗g3! 37.♕d4 ♕h1+ 38.♔e2 ♕g2+ 39.♔d3 ♗xe1 40.♗xe1 h3

White resigned. ■

Hans Ree

Poetry and Gruesome Deaths

The *Joys of Chess* by Christian Hesse is a mishmash of beautiful chess positions and interesting and sometimes weird stories. Hans Ree found that it did really deliver the joys promised.

Hesse's *The Joys of Chess* has brought me to poetry and to this gloomy scene where chess is no source of joy, but appears to be just one of the ways to kill time, body and soul.

One of the things I owe to Christian Hesse's book is the discovery of an interesting poet. Hesse's chapters are all preceded by one or more citations, sometimes weirdly illuminating the vast range of human folly, sometimes serious and enlightening, and often funny.

The chapter *Parity Arguments* is introduced with a short poem by Ernst Jandl which goes:

Many humans think
light and reft
cannot be invelted.
They'll in ellol.

The original is in German. I had never heard of this poet, but when I googled him I found that the Austrian Ernst Jandl (1925-2000) has a great reputation in his home country and in Germany. One of his collections of poetry is entitled *Selbstporträt des Schachspielers als trinkende Uhr* (Self-portrait of the chess player as drinking clock), which is the one I ordered, of course.

It turned out to be far removed from the jolly wordplay of the light-reft poem. Indeed, there was some play with language, but it was not at all jolly. The poems were about death, desolation and inadequacy. A line that sums it up says: 'He would have been a genius, had he been able to prevent himself', where 'he' clearly means 'I'.

In the poem that gave the collection its title, the poet is playing against a computer. From another poem we know that it is Novag's Chess Champion Super System III.

The beast gets 15 minutes per move, and when it beeps to indicate that the move has been made, the poet makes his countermove within seconds. He fills his glass every 25 minutes with gin and tonic, taking a gulp every four to seven minutes, and he lights a new cigarette every 12 to 14 minutes, thereby becoming a drinking and smoking clock. Meanwhile he is writing the poem that we are reading.

So, Hesse's *The Joys of Chess* has brought me to poetry and to this gloomy scene where chess is no source of joy, but appears to be just one of the ways to kill time, body and soul. This switch from chess to poetry confirms what Anand writes in his foreword: 'The book bridges the gap between the world of chess and the rest of the world and makes numerous connections such as to literature, arts, philosophy, mathematics, physics and other areas.'

By the way, the original German version of Hesse's book, *Expeditionen in die Schachwelt* (Forays into the world of chess), was introduced by the World Champion of that time Vladimir Kramnik, whose text, now that he has been succeeded by Anand, has been relegated to an afterword in the English edition. Maybe next year Boris Gelfand will be called upon to write the foreword to another edition, and I relish the prospect that one day the Dutch champion Anish Giri will be asked to bless this book with his foreword.

Gruesome Deaths

I mentioned that Hesse's citations, meant to illustrate the theme of a particular chapter, often drew from the vast range of human folly. To be more concrete, what I really wanted to say was that Hesse shows a distinct fascination with self-inflicted death, if done in an unusual and curious way.

He quotes a report about an opera singer who had a 'Smith & Wesson 38 special' beside his bed, grabbed it by accident when he awoke at the sound of the telephone ringing, and shot himself to death when he brought it to his ear. As a colourful detail the report added that his cries of pain were similar to those of Cavaradossi in Tosca, Act 2.

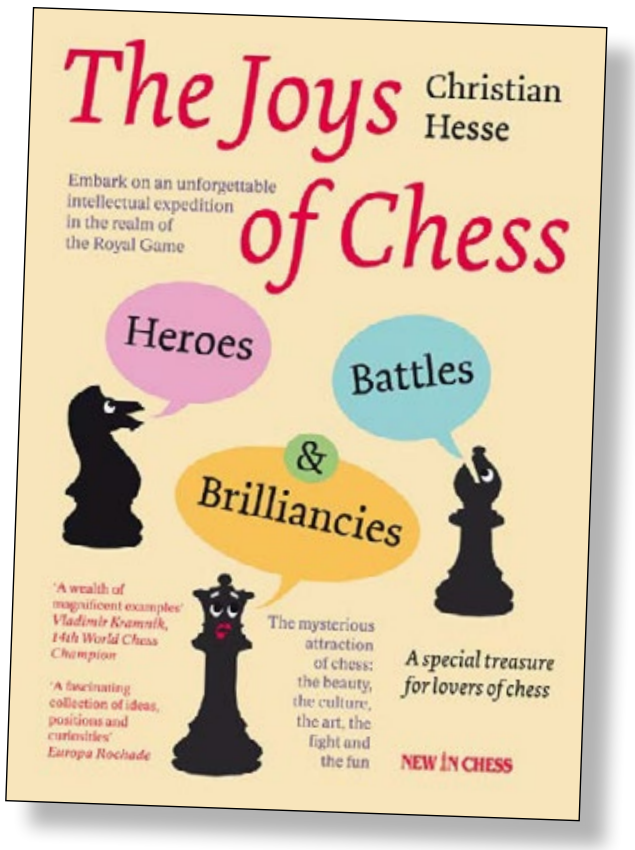
I won't really count the quoted headline 'Golfing immortal dies at 69', so let's go on to a sheriff's report about a seaside visitor who dug a deep hole at the beach to protect himself against the wind and suffocated when the walls collapsed.

Onward, ho! to an angler who died when a big fish jumped into his mouth while he was yawning, and to a pedestrian who escaped unharmed when knocked down by a car, but died when he tried to re-enact the scene in order to collect insurance money and the car rolled forward and crushed him.

We are not done yet, or rather Hesse is not. There is a tale about a six-year-old girl who planted an oak tree in her garden that 60 years later fell over and killed her. A story about a terrorist who sent a letter bomb with too few stamps, got it back ('return to sender'), opened it and was blown to bits. And finally (but I may have overlooked a gruesome story or two) there is the newspaper report about a poacher who shot a stag standing above him on an overhanging rock and was killed instantly when it fell on him. Double mate, said the British *Sunday Express*.

For those who have not had enough there are a few chess-related murders and accounts of chess masters who died from a heart attack while playing a game.

About one of these, Vladimir Bagirov, who died in 2000 during the Heart of Finland tournament, Hesse writes that he died at the board after reaching a winning position: 'Since Bagirov was neither in time-trouble nor had collapsed, but sat quietly in his chair, it took some time before someone noticed that all was not well.


The Joys of Chess
Christian Hesse
Embark on an unforgettable intellectual expedition in the realm of the Royal Game
Heroes
Battles
&
Brilliancies
'A wealth of magnificent examples' Vladimir Kramnik, 14th World Chess Champion
'A fascinating collection of ideas, positions and curiosities' Europa Rochade
The mysterious attraction of chess: the beauty, the culture, the art, the fight and the fun
A special treasure for lovers of chess
NEW IN CHESS

He simply looked as though he was contemplating his next move.'

Cloud of Unknowing

A catchy story, but I don't think it's true. The report I trust is that of Mark Crowther's *The Week in Chess* and his Finnish sources, which at the time gave the more sober version that Bagirov fell ill while reconstructing the game after a frantic time-scramble and died in a hospital the next morning.

Hesse hardly ever gives sources to back up his stories, which seems forgivable, as it is just not that kind of book. In this case his source must have been that anonymous cloud known as the Web. Well, so is mine, but as I said, in this cloud I trust Mark Crowther and the Finns.

Is Hesse a sadist? Am I a sadist, repeating his gruesome stories with relish while keeping up the pretence of being shocked? Are we chess players all sadists? Outsiders are often genuinely appalled by the violent language of chess players and commentators. 'Tearing apart his kingside limb by limb' is a quote that comes to my mind. It's only fun, we say, but it must have something to do with the contrast between the strong emotions of chess and the strict code that stops us from physically expressing them.

As a mathematician Hesse is denied the solace of violent language in his own profession. 'Tearing apart the Banach-Tarski ball limb by limb' would be very bad manners in a mathematical journal. Fortunately, we still have chess writing, and a public that will embrace the lurid details gladly.

Lucky Escapes

By now, dear reader, you may have become a bit impatient. OK, we have had an Austrian poet and some gruesome accidents, but wasn't this book supposed to be about chess? It certainly is, and to remove all possible doubt it can be said that on its 432 pages it has 597 diagrams, mainly of studies and problems, but also of game fragments.

It is a miscellany of everything in chess that was interesting to Hesse, who applied the sound rule that the best way to produce a book was to write one that he would like to read himself. It combines entertainment and instruction in the tradition of chess writers such as Chernev, Soltis and Fox & James, although in its emphasis on chess compositions it is most similar to Tim Krabbé's *Chess Curiosities*. Krabbé is much more of a purist, limiting his search for beauty to chess moves, without excursions into other intellectual fields.

As a miscellany the book is hard to sum up. I'll just pick a few subjects that are treated here and make my review, if you can call it that, a miscellany of rambling remarks inspired by *The Joys of Chess*.

Among the tales of gruesome accidents there is one story about an accident that fortunately did not happen. Hesse has it from Christopher Lutz, who had it from Artur Yusupov, the

lucky escapee of the tale. Yusupov had told Lutz that once in a tournament in the Soviet Union, when his game was adjourned, he thought for a long time about his sealed move, wrote it down, put it in the envelope and left the tournament hall. Just a short time after he had left, a heavy light fell from the ceiling bang in the middle of his board.

Chandeliers in Soviet tournament halls could be really big and heavy. So lucky that FIDE had not yet abolished adjournments! With a modern schedule Yusupov would have been playing till the end. His end, that is.

I witnessed a similar lucky escape during the Dutch championship of 1969, which was played in a big old hotel in Leeuwarden, the capital of the province of Friesland. About an hour after the start of the round a big, thick chunk of ceiling fell with thundering noise on one of the little tables in the space for the spectators. Almost all players stood and stared motionlessly, helpless like sheep. Only Donner had the presence of mind to hide under his table.

No more chunks came falling. As it was early in the round, the spectators had not yet arrived; if someone had been hit, he would certainly have been dead. Later Donner was to write: 'On April 14th, 1969, J.H. Donner – that's me – was hit on the head by a piece of falling concrete, which made him lose five games in a row and which enabled Ree to win the title by the smallest of margins!'

Dreamers of Genius

In the chapter about dreams Hesse gives a few examples of players who dreamed up some good chess. Larry Christiansen dreamed up a very dangerous piece sacrifice in a topical variation of the Paulsen Sicilian. Sorcerer David Bronstein dreamed a whole game between himself and an alter ego and Jan Timman dreamed an improvement on a long opening analysis that was so strong that it won him an important point in his Candidates' match against Yusupov in 1992.

Why did it never happen to me? Like most chess players I have had many chess dreams. Sometimes they were about concrete positions on the board, but in my dreams it was always impossible to see the position clearly.

Recently I had a dream that must be a contender for the dullest chess dream of all time. Bent Larsen and Wolfgang Uhlmann were playing a Candidates' match, as they did in real life. Larsen won, again as in real life. After the game I was sitting at a board with Uhlmann, who maintained that he should have been able to get a small advantage as White in a hedgehog position.

How unsufferably reasonable! I might as well stay awake.

Based on my own experience, never getting the position really in focus, I am sceptical about the claims about important theoretical novelties or even complete brilliant games thought up in dreams. I always suspected these people were pulling our legs. But who knows, maybe great players are also great dreamers.

Coincidentally, while I was writing this article, the Dutch IM and chess writer Gert Ligterink put up a column at the Tata Steel tournament's site about chess dreams (in Dutch).

Ligterink quoted an interpreter of dreams who had said: 'If you dream that you are playing a game of chess, this might indicate that you are in dull company and that your business and your health are in a bad state.' Bad news for us. One suspects that actually playing chess would be an even worse omen than dreaming about it.

Ligterink shares my scepticism about the brilliant chess moves found in dreams and tells a story about a visit to his friend, the Dutch IM Paul Boersma, during their student days.

He didn't have to ring the doorbell, because the squat where Boersma was living at that time didn't have a door.

Boersma was still asleep when Ligterink walked into his room, but then he woke up and with a curse he jumped up and went to his chess board. After making a few moves he said sadly: 'I had dreamt there was a forced win for White from the initial position, but I see now that it doesn't work.'

A fine writer, but I forgot who it was, once wrote that in the middle of the night he briefly woke up and scribbled a note, a splendid idea for a novel. In the morning he found that he had written 'bear eats yoghurt'.

Variations on Krabbé

Earlier I wrote that Hesse should be forgiven for not explicitly naming his sources. Indeed, it would probably make the book unreadable if he had cluttered it with notes and references at every occasion. There is an impressive eight-page 'Index of literature consulted and further reading' and that must do the job of attribution.

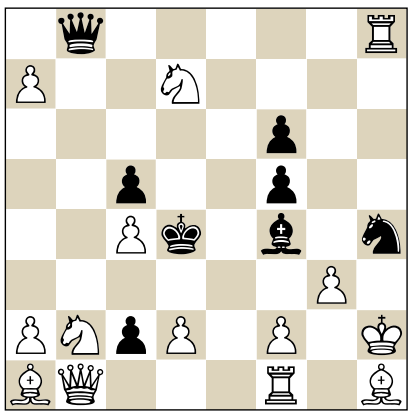
In a few cases I think that he should have been more explicit and more generous. Can one write four pages about the Babson task without mentioning the name of Tim Krabbé? Krabbé has written extensively about this subject, on his website and in his book *Chess Curiosities* (which appeared in different forms in Dutch, English and German), and in Dutch he has even written a small book devoted completely to it, *De man die de Babson task wilde maken* (The man who wanted to make the Babson task).

That book is not so much about the man who succeeded in this task, the Russian Leonid Yarosh, but mainly about the Frenchman Pierre Drumare, who spent his life trying to fulfil it. After many false tries that had generated real monsters of composition, he came to the conclusion that the task was impossible. Later he did finally succeed, but only after Yarosh had shown the way.

About Drumare Krabbé wrote in *Chess Curiosities* in 1985: 'One hesitates to imagine his feelings when he saw Yarosh's miracle.' Now Hesse writes: 'It is difficult to imagine how Pierre Drumare must have felt when seeing diagram 204.' Krabbé wrote: 'Compared to Drumare, Lindgren and Geyerstam, Yarosh hadn't just broken the world's 100-metre record, he had set it at eight seconds flat.' Hesse varies: 'It is as though someone had not only beaten Bob Beamon's 8.90m world long jump record, but at the same time stretched it to over 10m.' As I said, he should have mentioned his predecessor.

Diagram of the Century

There will be readers of New in Chess who have no idea what this is all about, so here it is, the diagram that may well be called 'the diagram of the 20th century'.



L. Yarosh
Shakhmaty v SSSR, March 1983
Mate in 4

After the key move 1.♖xh4, Black can promote on b1 to four different pieces and the stipulation of the Babson task is that White can only give mate in 4 moves if he mirrors Black: after 1...cxb1♕ the only correct way starts with 2.axb8♕, after 1...cxb1♖ the only way is 2.axb8♖, and so on.

That this can be done is indeed a miracle, but a few months later Yarosh improved on it with an amended version (the one that Hesse gives) in which White's key move is not a capture.

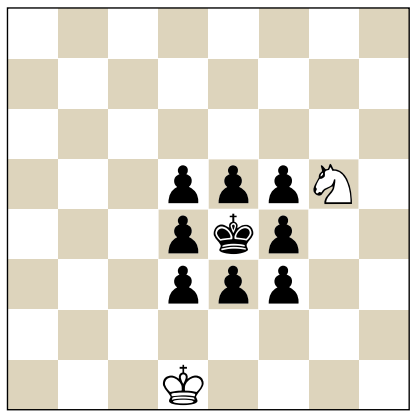
Taking Mistakes Lightly

Have you found any errors in this book? ask the editors of New in Chess on page 4, and they promise to forward all relevant corrections to the Errata page of their website. I had a look at that page and found only a few minor mistakes (probably typing errors) connected with the relative value of bishop and knight.

To be honest – an expression used by many young chess stars nowadays, as the World Champion does not only set the fashion in openings, but also in manners of speech – I must say that I found quite a number of errors about chess history in this book that are much more substantial, but I am not writing a proofreader's report here, so I'll let it go.

This is a big book, with an abundance of beauty and laughter, and it really conveys the joys of chess both to experts and novices. But what about the errors? Hesse's book is a compilation of materials compiled by many other compilers and as such a fine thing, but stories told and retold sometimes lose accuracy. The mistakes are all there, waiting to be made, wrote the great Savielly Tartakower, who always took his own mistakes lightly.

All through writing this article I had to suppress the urge to quote Hesse to such an extent that it would go beyond propriety. Well, as a conclusion here is one more diagram.

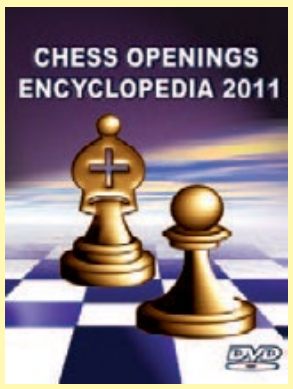


Hesse, *The Joys of Chess* diagram 320

This is the final position of a problem (mate in 10) by Carl Friedrich Andreyevich Jaenisch, 1850. To see what the initial position was, what moves were made and what the story was that inspired Jaenisch, you'll have to buy the book. ■

ChessOK Software

New! Chess Openings Encyclopedia 2011



The material on openings is based upon about **500,000** of **expert evaluations**, **8000 annotations** to key moves by Grandmaster Kalinin, about **40 million** of evaluations obtained in the course of analysis of key positions by **Rybka** program, and a base of **4,35 million games** as of March 1, 2011. A powerful system of search according to player' name, position, positional element, motif and material correlation are supported.

Chess Openings Encyclopedia 2011 (for download) - $32 / 25 Euro
Chess Openings Encyclopedia 2011 (on DVD) - $40 / 32 Euro

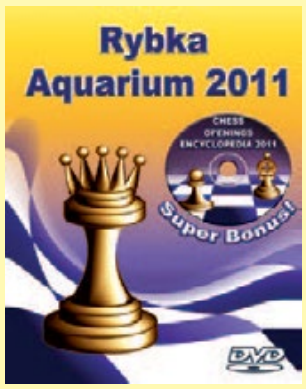
New! ChessOK Aquarium 2011

ChessOK Aquarium 2011 offers advanced analysis functions, game commenting, searching, powerful chess trees, playing, game databases and much more. In ChessOK Aquarium 2011 **a possibility of simple connection** of the multi-core versions of Deep Rybka or other UCI and Winboard engines (32 and 64 bit versions).
Super Bonus! In the package goes DVD Chess Openings Encyclopedia 2011.

ChessOK Aquarium 2011 (for download) - $40 / 32 Euro
ChessOK Aquarium 2011 (on DVD) - $49 / 39 Euro

- **Interactive Deep Analysis** is the most advanced chess analysis method available today.
- **Find Blunders** and **Game Analysis** for analyzing whole games. **Infinite Analysis.**
- **Play against the computer.** Choose from three different strength handicap methods.
- **Database with 4,700,000 games** (on March, 2011). Compatibility with major opening book and database formats.

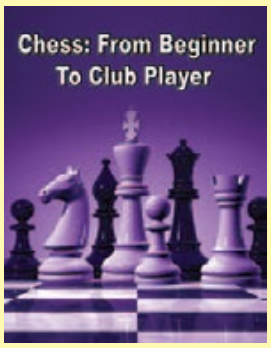
New! Rybka Aquarium 2011 / Deep Rybka Aquarium 2011



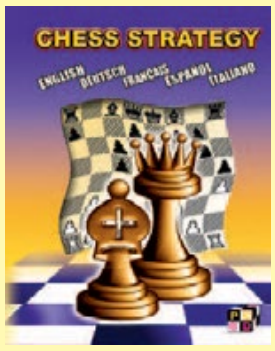
This exciting new package includes the new **Rybka 4.1 engine** (March, 2011) in ChessOK Aquarium interface and the **Bonus DVD Chess Openings Encyclopedia 2011.** Choose Deep Rybka Aquarium 2011 if you have a multiprocessor computer and Rybka Aquarium 2011 for a single processor computer.

Rybka Aquarium 2011 (for download) – $59 / 47 Euro
Rybka Aquarium 2011 (on DVD) – $62 / 50 Euro
Deep Rybka Aquarium 2011 (for download) - $119 / 95 Euro
Deep Rybka Aquarium 2011 (on DVD) – $125 / 100 Euro

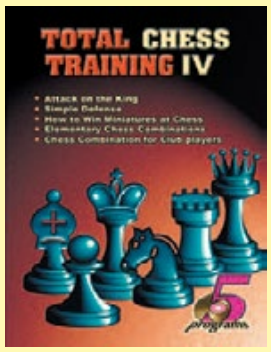
New Training programs



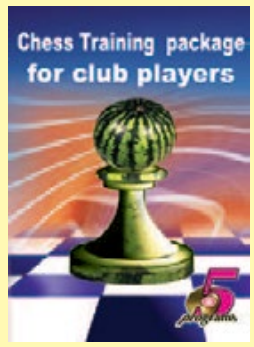
$32 / 25 € on CD
$25 / 20 € for Download



$32 / 25 € on CD
$25 / 20 € for Download



$80 / 64 € on CD
$75 / 60 € for Download



$80 / 64 € on CD
$75 / 60 € for Download

www.ChessOK.com

Convekta Ltd., info@chessok.com, Fax: +44-1628-486777
Chess software in the Chess online shop: www.newinchess.com

Charles Hertan

Forcing Moves

The Inhuman Art of Defense

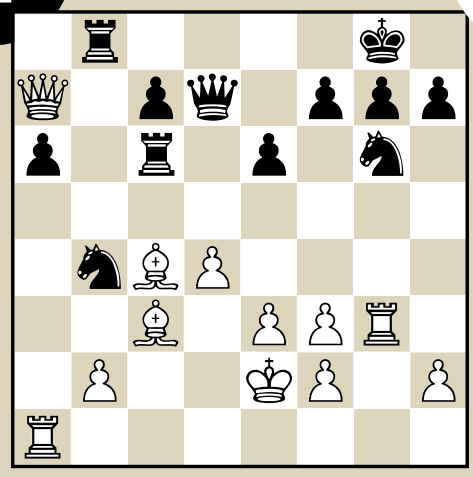
Computer dominance is most keenly felt in the realm of defending 'scary' positions. This is well illustrated in the greatest chess books ever written, Kasparov's *My Great Predecessors* series. (With a riveting, deeply researched narrative on the key games and personalities of all pre-1990's world champs, stunningly annotated by the ultimate human/computer tandem, is there any argument?) To compensate for our limited brute force capacities, humans develop a 'sense of danger' to tell us when the opponent's attack is potentially lethal. We're instinctively programmed to avoid risky situations, and prefer the role of 'hunter' to that of 'prey'. This emotional bias can have unfortunate consequences, leading us to choose caution even when the only correct course is to withstand enemy aggression and invite an open battle.

The second strike against us is this: defending tough positions is very situational. While there are many helpful formulas and stock tactical ideas for attacking, defense has few concrete rules. This is why books on attacking outnumber defense by probably 100:1. It is no accident that the few human players regarded as superb defenders – Steinitz, Lasker, Petrosian and Kortchnoi come to mind – were also geniuses of calculation. Computers are so cold-blooded that we are understandably afraid to attack them, and they are finding busts to famous combinations that were bluntly beyond our defensive capabilities.

Level of difficulty:
1-4 stars, 1 is 'easiest' and 4 'most difficult'.
The star rating refers to the difficulty of finding all the relevant variations, not just finding the right key move.

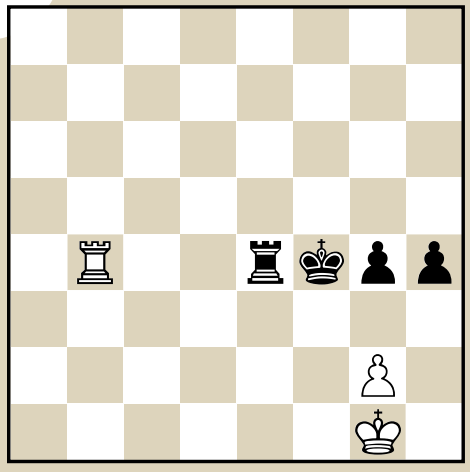
Solutions on page 103

1 ★½☆☆



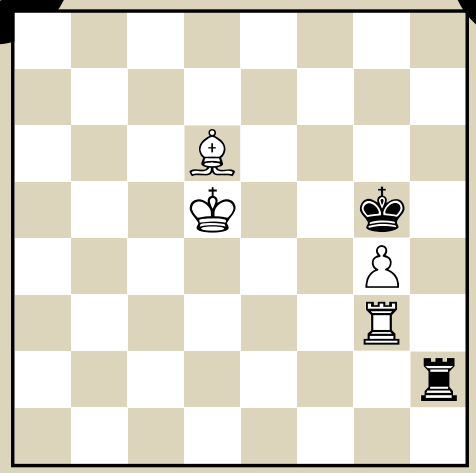
Black to move and win

2 ★★☆☆



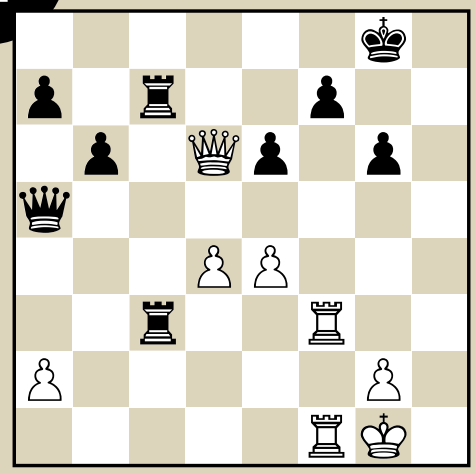
White to move and enforce the draw

3 ★★☆☆



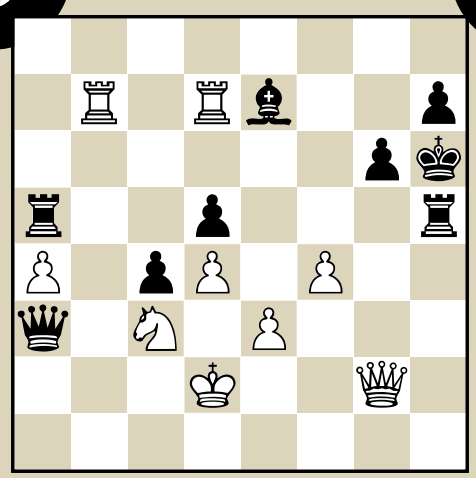
Black to move and draw

4 ★★★½



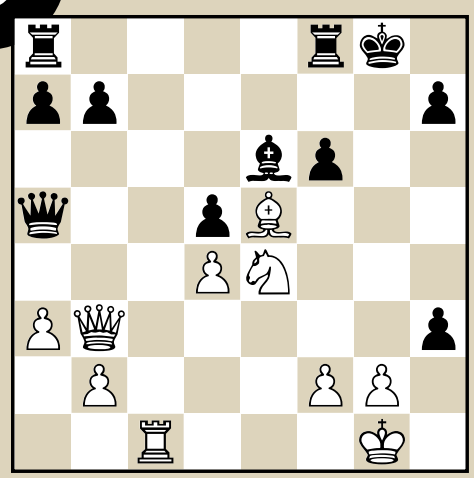
Black to move and draw

5 ★★★★



Black to move and draw

6 ★★★½



Black to move and win

Jan Timman

Morozevich's Comeback

Success ought to cause a feeling of euphoria, but Morozevich's head seemed only to have room for gloom and doom.

Last year, Alexander Morozevich played only 13 games, winning two and losing five; the losses were particularly painful. He had always been ambivalent about professional chess, and now it seemed that he was going to be lost for chess for a long time. After his superior win in the annual Biel tournament in 2004 Morozevich observed that all tournaments seemed the same to him. He felt like an amateur. You wonder how this is possible – success ought to cause a feeling of euphoria, but Morozevich's head seemed only to have room for gloom and doom.

The New-Year tournament in Reggio Emilia was an unsuccessful attempt at a comeback. In New In Chess 2011/1, Short explains how he managed to turn a losing position against Morozevich into a win. After that silence descended around Morozevich again. In June he staged another comeback, this time with more success: he won the Higher League of the Russian Championship in splendid fashion.

What does Morozevich do when he is not active in the chess arena? It is difficult to get an answer to this question. After his victory he gave an interview that I found on the website *Chess in Translation*.

'It's true, the Higher League wasn't in my plans', he observes. And some time later, when talking about his participation in the Super-Final in Moscow in August: 'That was the only month I already had real plans which I truly didn't want to change.'

What kind of plans? It seems to me that he should be intensively preparing at this stage.

'... after the first games it was clear that it was a long time since I'd sat down at the board, and I was making moves with great difficulty', Morozevich observed later. But this is not the impression one gets from his first-round game.

EO 46.9 – B36
Alexander Morozevich
Evgeny Vorobiov
Taganrog 2011 (1)

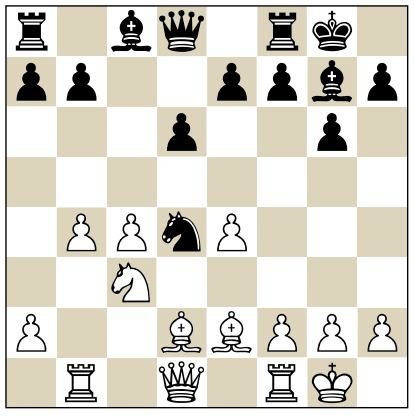
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 g6 5.c4 ♘f6 6.♘c3 d6 7.♘c2 ♗g7 8.♗e2 0-0 9.0-0 ♘d7 10.♗d2 ♘c5 11.b4

A well-known pawn sacrifice.

11...♘e6

It would have been interesting to see how Morozevich would have continued after 11...♗xc3 12.♗xc3 ♘xe4 13.♗b2 e5. In Malakhov-Kryakvin, Novokuznetsk 2008, Black got a splendid position after 14.♗f3 ♘f6 15.♗xc6 bxc6 16.f4 ♕b6+ 17.♔h1 ♘e4! 19.♕e1 f5.

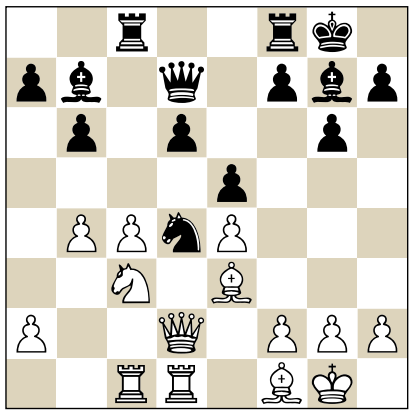
12.♖b1 ♘ed4 13.♘xd4 ♘xd4



14.♗d3

A slow, strategic move. In Aronian-Vorobiov, Moscow Aeroflot 2004, White was successful with the immediate 14.♗e3, forcing the knight to show its hand. Vorobiov would certainly have prepared an improvement here.

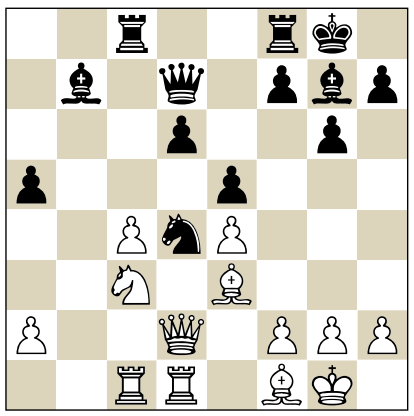
14...b6 15.♗e3 ♗b7 16.♕d2 ♕d7 17.♖fd1 ♖ac8 18.♗f1 e5 19.♖bc1



19...a5?

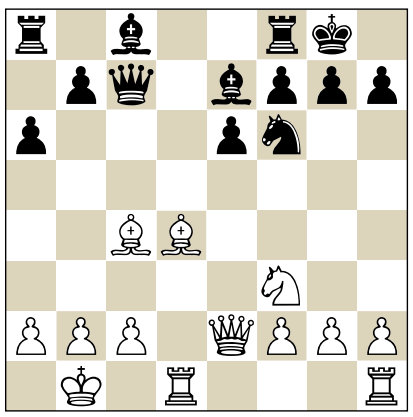
In many cases this is a sound advance, but in this position it fatally weakens the queenside.

20.bxa5 bxa5



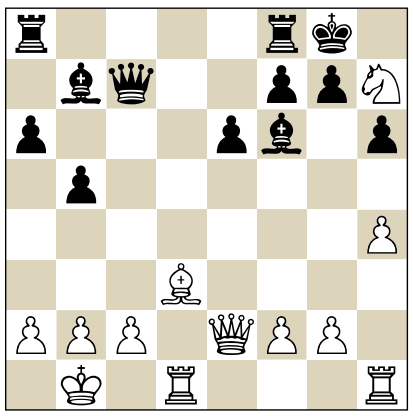
21.♘b5!
Simple and strong. Black is forced to swap the knight, after which White gets a decisive queenside advantage.
21...♘xb5 22.cxb5 ♖xc1 23.♖xc1 ♗xe4 24.b6 ♗c6 25.♕xa5 d5 26.♕c5 ♗b7 27.♕c7 ♕xc7 28.♖xc7 ♖b8 29.a4 d4 30.♗d2 ♗d5 31.a5 ♗f8 32.h4 ♔g7 33.♗c4 ♗xc4 34.♖xc4 ♗e7 35.♗b4 d3 36.♔f1
Black resigned.

In Round 3, Morozevich had it much harder.

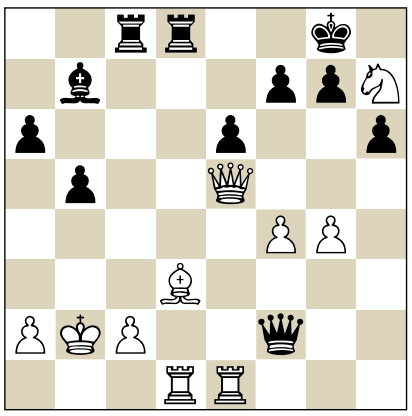


Morozevich-Khalifman
Taganrog 2011 (3)
position after 15...a6

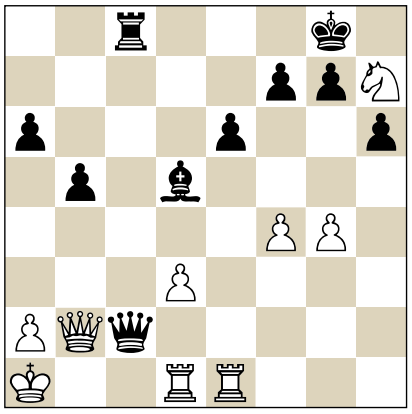
The position seems slightly better for White after moves like 16.♗e5 or 16.♗d3. Instead Morozevich launched himself into a mad adventure.
16.♘g5!?
The start of unclear complications.
16...h6 17.h4 b5 18.♗d3 ♗b7 19.♗xf6 ♗xf6 20.♘h7
The point of White's play. Now Black uncorks a strong finesse.



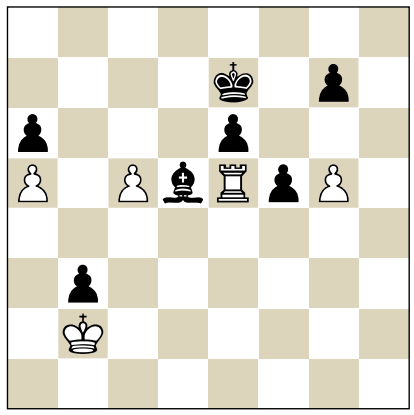
20...♗xb2!
With the point that 21.♘xf8 fails to 21...♗c3!, and the white king finds itself in a mating net.
21.♔xb2 ♖fd8
The fact that the white knight remains offside gives Black sufficient compensation for the piece.
22.♖he1 ♕f4 23.♕e5 ♕xh4 24.f4 ♖ac8 25.g4 ♕f2



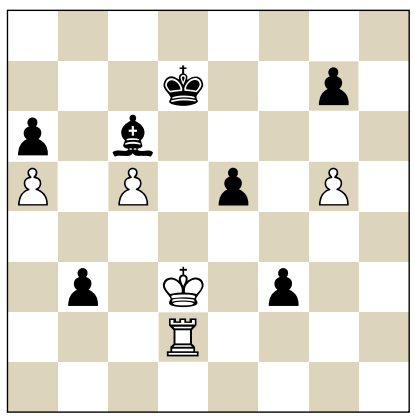
26.♔b1
White tries to neutralize the capture on d3, but this is not the best way. He should have calmly continued with 26.g5!, intending to meet 26...♖xd3 by 27.♖e2!, and after 27...♕xe2 28.♕xe2 ♖xd1 29.♕xd1 ♗e4! the chances are roughly equal. The black rook and bishop cooperate perfectly.
26...♖xd3 27.cxd3 ♕c2+ 28.♔a1 ♗d5 29.♕b2



29...♔xh7
It is understandable that Khalifman wants to finally capture the knight. But 29...♕a4, keeping the queens on the board, would have been stronger, with an advantage for Black.
30.♖c1 ♕xb2+ 31.♔xb2 ♖d8 32.♖c7 ♔g6 33.♖e3 ♖d6 34.a3 ♖b6 35.♖e5 ♔f6 36.d4 b4 37.a4 b3 38.a5 ♖b5 39.♖c5 ♖xc5 40.g5+ hxg5 41.fxg5+ ♔e7 42.dxc5 f5



43.♖e2
He should have taken en passant on f6. Now the black passed pawns will get too strong.
43...f4 44.♖h2 e5 45.♔c3 f3 46.♖d2 ♗c6
Letting the win slip. After 46...♔e6 things would have looked pretty grim for White.
47.♔d3 ♔d7

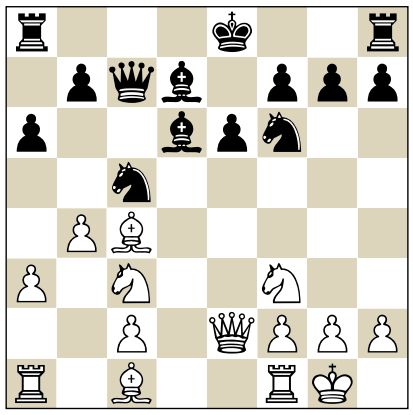


48.♔c4+?
Morozevich throws caution to the winds. He should have played 48.♔e3+ to keep the enemy f-pawn in check.
48...♔c7 49.♖f2 b2?
The final mistake in this gripping game. Black could have won simply with 49...e4.
50.♖xb2 ♗b5+ 51.♔c3 ♔c6 52.♖f2 ♗e2 53.♔d2 ♔xc5 54.♔e3 ♔d5 55.♖h2 ♔e6 56.♔e4 ♔d6 57.♔e3 ♔e6 Draw.

A narrow escape for Morozevich. He seemed to be paying the price for his lack of tournament practice. The same went for Khalifman, who no longer plays those sharp, difficult games very often these days.

Jan Timman

In Round 5, Morozevich was in trouble for the last time. Pushing too hard against Lysyj, he was decidedly losing at some point. Lysyj let the win slip, and after this incident Morozevich definitely stayed in a class of his own, winning four games on the trot, all of them in excellent style. Sometimes, when you're lucky, everything goes your way. This is what seemed to be the case in Round 8.



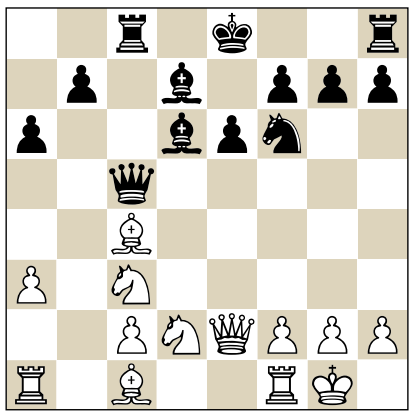
Timofeev-Morozevich
Taganrog 2011 (8)
position after 15.b4

Starting with the Tarrasch Variation, Black has got a comfortable position. After the simple 15...♘a4 he could have awaited developments with confidence, but he decided on a different plan, which is not without risk.

15...♖c8 Sharp play.

16.♗b2?

Based on a miscalculation. White should have captured the knight. After 16.bxc5 ♕xc5 17.♘d2 Black would have had the following possibilities:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

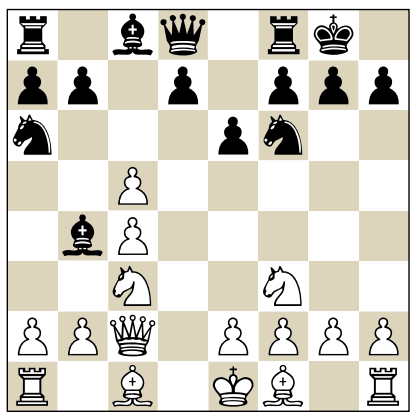
A) 17...♗f4 18.♘cb1!, and White keeps the piece;

B) 17...♕e5 (best) 18.♕xe5 ♗xe5 19.♗b2 b5 20.♘xb5! axb5 21.♗xe5 bxc4 22.a4, and White is better.

When Morozevich is in good form, his play is characterized by a combination of solid positional play and a command of complex tactical positions. If necessary, he is able to smoothly switch from strategy to tactics. A good example is his win from Round 9.

NI 21.5 – E32
Alexander Morozevich
Sanan Sjugirov
Taganrog 2011 (9)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♕c2 0-0 5.♘f3 c5 6.dxc5 ♘a6



7.c6

Morozevich successfully introduced this advance against Ponomariov, Moscow Tal Memorial 2008. Later it was played a few times in the ensuing blitz tournament, for example by Magnus Carlsen. White aims for a specific strategic type of position, avoiding the beaten tracks; a variation that suits Morozevich down to the ground.

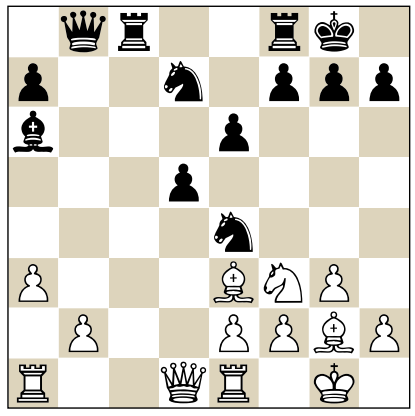
7...bxc6 8.g3

The more common continuation is 8.a3, intending to force the bishop to show its hand at once. In most cases this boils down to a transposition of moves.

8...d5

In Amber 2009, Kamsky played 8...♘c5 against Morozevich, which was also met by 9.a3.

9.a3 ♗xc3+ 10.♕xc3 ♘c5 11.cxd5 ♘fe4 12.♕c2 cxd5 13.♗e3 ♘d7 14.♗g2 ♗a6 15.0-0 ♖c8 16.♕d1 ♕c7 17.♖e1 ♕b8



Both players have completed their development, and the position is roughly equal.

Solid moves now were 18.♕d4 and 18.♖b1 to cover the b-pawn. But Morozevich opts for a continuation that leads to sharp play.

18.♘d2

Afterwards he was dissatisfied with it; he had underestimated Black's move.

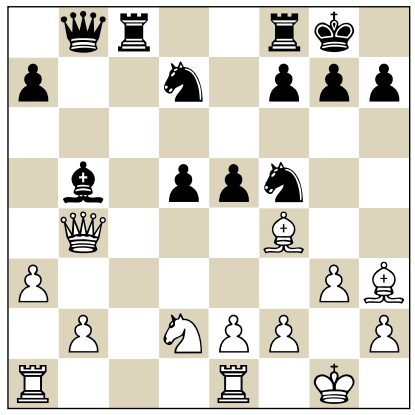
18...♘d6!

Black avoids the knight swap and now threatens the annoying 19...♘f5, after which the white pieces are in each other's way.

19.♕a4

White deploys his queen in order to disturb the coordination of Black's minor pieces.

19...♗b5 20.♕b4 ♘f5 21.♗f4 e5 22.♗h3



In his comments for the website of the Russian chess federation, Morozevich observes that this is the critical position of the game.

22...a5

Slight panic. Morozevich had mainly been worried about the quiet move 22...g6, after which White is forced to give up the bishop pair. Sjugirov thought better of this, because he didn't like the position after 23.♗xf5 gxf5 24.♗h6. But the position after 24...♖fe8 25.♕h4 ♖e6 doesn't look bad for Black.

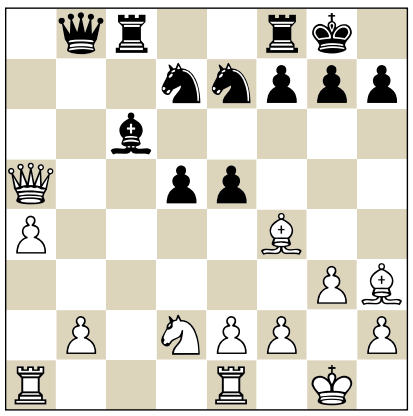
Morozevich observes: 'I didn't know in whose favour to evaluate that, as I couldn't see a mate and I've got no presence in the centre.'

My computer also fails to give a clear assessment. It seems to me that the black position is easier to play.

23.♕xa5 ♘e7

The point of the previous move. The white queen's bishop is in trouble.

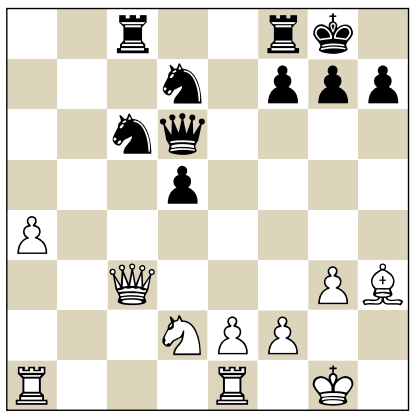
24.a4 ♗c6



25.b4!

Absolutely the best way to save the bishop. A similar idea was 25.e4, but then Black has it easy after 25...exf4 26.exd5 ♘xd5 27.♗xd7 ♗xd7 28.♕xd5 ♖fd8.

25...exf4 26.b5 fxg3 27.hxg3 ♕d6 28.bxc6 ♘xc6 29.♕c3



With the first skirmishes out of the way, White can boast a slight advantage. His passed a-pawn is more important than the black kingside majority.

29...f5

A good reply. Black increases his sphere of influence and restricts the white king's bishop's range of action.

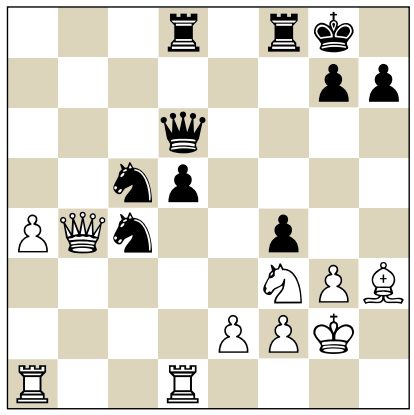
30.♘f3 ♘ce5 31.♕a3 ♕h6 32.♔g2 ♖cd8

But this is a strangely passive move. Stronger was 32...♘g4, intending to play the other knight to f6.

33.♕a2

Not the most active move either. Better was 33.♘d4, with a clear advantage for White.

33...♕d6 34.♖ed1 ♘c5 35.♕a3 ♘c4 36.♕b4 f4



The start of new skirmishes. Black wants to take on g3 in order to weaken the white king's defences. The drawback of the text, however, is that it increases the white bishop's sphere of action again. More cautious was 36...g6, after which the balance has not really been disturbed.

37.♖ac1!

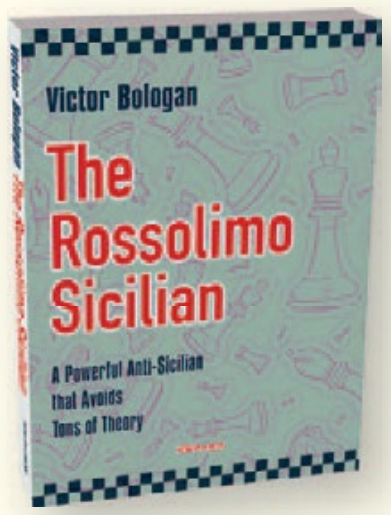
Morozevich in his element. Black cannot prevent White from making a promising exchange sacrifice.

37...♕e7 38.♖xc4

Maybe the alternative 38.♖xd5 would have been slightly stronger.

38...dxc4 39.♖xd8 ♖xd8 40.gxf4 ♕d6 41.♘e5

An obvious sortie; White puts his knight in a powerful central position. Yet it wasn't White's strongest move, since the white king is not entirely safe. A strong move would have been 41.e4! to take the crucial square d5 away from the black queen. White



"Helps you to learn through understanding the material (..) I feel this is a book the chess world has been waiting for."
German Federation for Correspondence Chess:

"There are no variations labelled B1332212 here! (..) There's comparatively little to memorize, and what should be memorized is largely conceptual."
Dennis Monokroussos, ChessToday

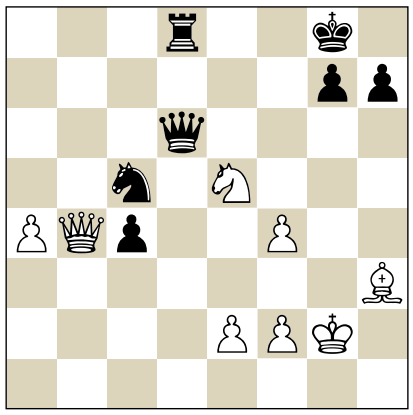
"Bologan offers his material in an approach that combines using a structure based around 'model games' and a strict opening book. This synthesis works well with the Rossolimo that is usually about ideas but can become sharp and theoretical."
IM John Donaldson, jeremysilman.com

"An ideal weapon against the Sicilian with little theory and good prospects (..) The additional training tests are great."
Europa Rochade Magazine

Paperback • 238 pages • € 22.95 • available at your local (chess)bookseller or at newinchess.com

Jan Timman

can then take the c-pawn and let the knight jump to e5 or g5. Black is facing a very difficult defence.



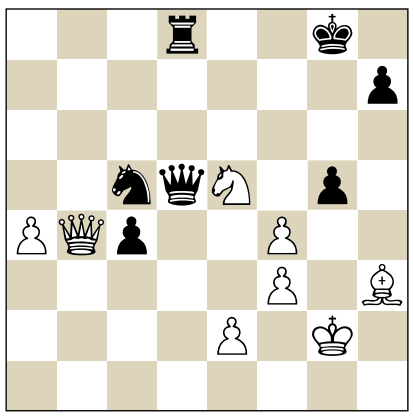
41...g5! This sharp advance is Black's best chance.

42.f3

Cleverly played. After first removing all the checks White starts thinking about how to continue manoeuvring his pieces.

42...♕d5

Morozevich rightly calls this 'a clumsy move'. Better was 42...♔g7, a move that had to be played anyway. White would have no way then to get a tangible advantage.



43.♘g4!

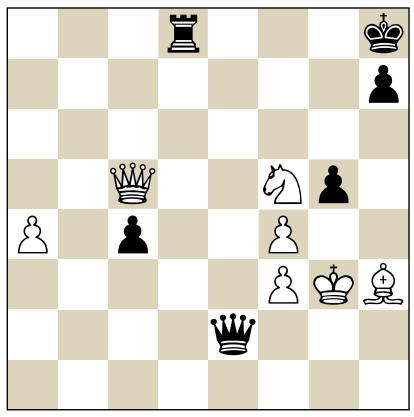
Now the situation is dangerous for Black, although, as we will see, objectively speaking the position is still balanced.

43...♔h8 44.♘e3 ♕d4 45.♘f5

The knight is indefatigable. Now Black has to sacrifice his knight to keep counterplay.

45...♕d2 46.♕xc5 ♕xe2+ 47.♔g3

The start of a new phase. White has a material advantage, but will have to play his king up the board to escape from the checks.



47...gxf4+

An utterly logical continuation. You certainly cannot blame Sjugirov for missing the problem move 47...g4!! with which Black could have forced a draw. Black always has a perpetual: after 48.fxg4 and 48.♗xg4, 48...♕e1+ is enough, while 48.♔xg4 is met by 48...♖g8+, and again the white king cannot escape.

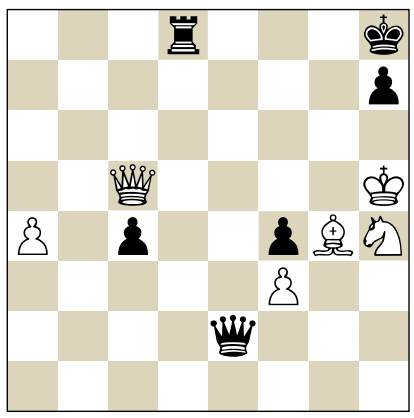
The deeper point of the problem move is that Black takes as many escape squares as possible away from the white king, a well-known theme in problems and endgame studies.

The text doesn't disturb the balance yet either.

48.♔h4 ♕e1+ 49.♔h5 ♕e2

But this is wrong. Correct was 49...♕e6, when White will find it difficult to coordinate his pieces.

50.♗g4 ♕h2+ 51.♘h4 ♕e2



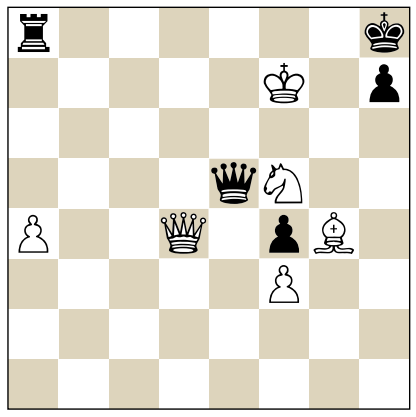
52.♘f5

With 52.♗d7! White could have taken the position in a stranglehold. Morozevich had worried that his pieces would be spread out too thinly then. But Black has too little material to exploit this.

52...♕h2+ 53.♔g5 ♖g8+ 54.♔f6 ♕b2+

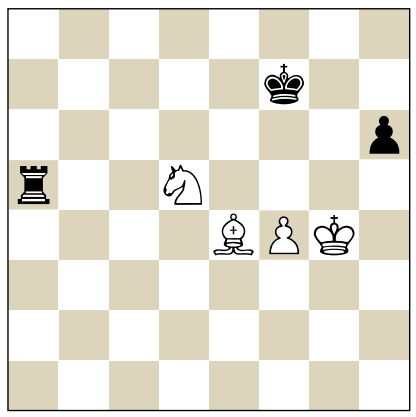
With 54...h5 Black could have forced a draw. After 55.♘e7 hxg4 56.♘xg8 he has the saving intermediate check 56...♕h4+!. It was hard to see this in the calculations.

55.♔e6 ♖e8+ 56.♔f7 ♕e5 57.♕xc4 ♖a8 58.♕d4



Forcing a queen swap. Morozevich observes that the ensuing endgame is winning, but I have my doubts about this assessment. White wins the f-pawn but Black keeps his h-pawn. It seems to me that this pawn should keep him within drawing margins.

58...♕xd4 59.♘xd4 ♖xa4 60.♘e6 ♖b4 61.♔f6 ♔g8 62.♗f5 ♖b6 63.♔g5 ♔f7 64.♘xf4 h6+ 65.♔g4 ♖b4 66.♗e4 ♖b5 67.♘d5 ♖a5 68.f4



68...♔g7? An incomprehensible error. He should have centralized his king with 68...♔e6, and I don't see how White can advance his pawn without problems.

69.f5 The rest is a piece of cake.

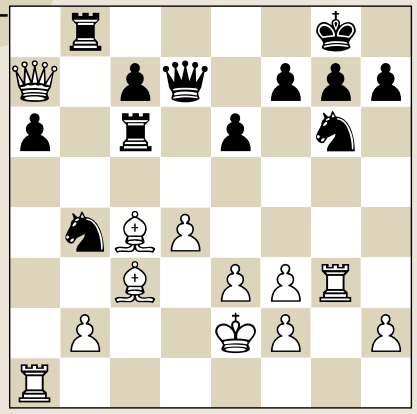
69...♔f7 70.♔f4 ♖a8 71.♗f3 ♖a1 72.♗h5+ ♔g7 73.f6+ ♔f8 74.♘c7 ♖f1+ 75.♔e5 ♖e1+ 76.♔d6 ♖f1 77.♘e6+ ♔g8 78.♔e7

Black resigned. ■

Forcing Moves

Solutions of page 97

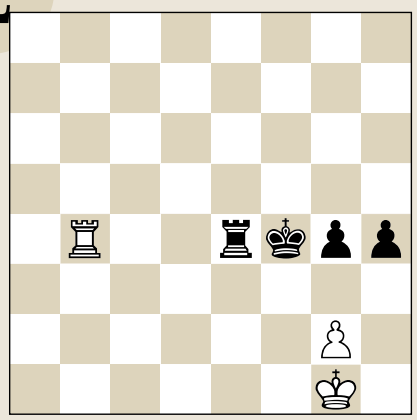
1



Burn-Chigorin
Berlin 1897

The white queen's reckless foray was coldly refuted by **1...♕c8! 2.♗xb4 ♖xc4! 3.♗c5 ♖a8 4.♕xa8 ♕xa8 5.♔d3 ♘e5+ 6.♔e2 ♘d7 0-1**

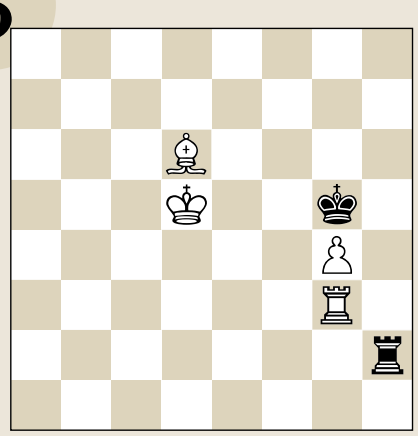
2



Tallaksen-Hector
Copenhagen 2003

White forced an immediate theoretical draw: **1.g3+! hxg3 2.♖xe4+ ♔xe4 3.♔g2 ♔f4 4.♔g1** The rear g-pawn is too far advanced; Black lacks the essential waiting move. **4...♔f3 5.♔f1 g2 6.♔g1 g3 ½-½** Interestingly, Rybka 4 is completely stymied by this basic position which a strong master easily grasps. For over 5 minutes it tries only 1.♖b2? and 1.♖b8, '−+'. Even after 1.g3+ it takes a moment to see the draw. For an encore, the engine bungles the passive defense 1.♖b1: 1…g3 2.♖d1 ♖a4 3.♖e1 ♔g4 4.♖b1 h3 5.♖c1 '−+' (still) though Black can't make progress. If 5…h2+ 6.♔h1 White gives up the rook with stalemate; or 5…hxg2 6.♖b8=; otherwise the black rook can't leave the fifth rank due to ♖b4+. Chalk one up for human logic!

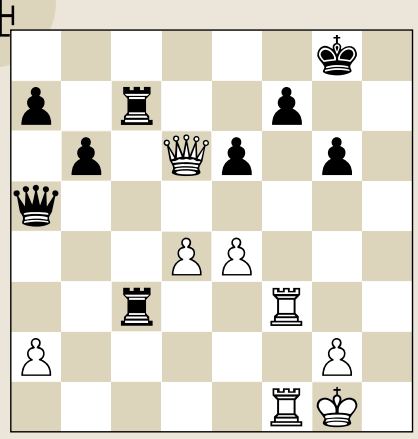
3



Vedder-Gagunashvili
Vlissingen 2004

A magical escape: **1...♖h4!! 2.♗e7+ ♔f4 3.♗xh4?** Stalemate! White 'should' instead torture his stronger foe in the theoretically drawn ♖+♗ vs. ♖ nightmare.

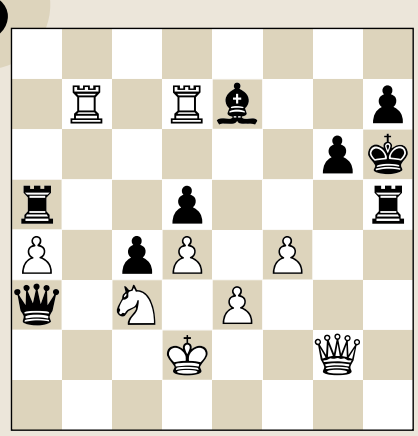
4



Najdorf-Tal
Belgrade 1970

Tal missed the awesomely subtle *only* defense **1...♕g5! 2.♖xc3 ♖xc3 3.♕b8+ ♔g7 4.♕xa7 ♕e3+ 5.♔h1 ♕h6+=** Who could foresee that White's in-between check on d8 decides after Tal's **1...♖xf3? 2.♕d8+! ♔g7 3.♖xf3 ♕e1+ 4.♔h2** Key point: h4 is guarded. **4...♖c3** Otherwise 5.♕f6+ and 6.♖h3 wins. **5.♕f6+ ♔h6 6.♕f4+ ♔h7 7.♕xf7+ ♔h6 8.♕f4+ ♔h7** and now Rybka's 9.♖f2! (△10.♕h4+ ♔g7 11.♖f7+) 9...♕e3 10.♕h4+ ♔g7 11.♖f4!, with 12.♕e7+ or 12.♕f6+ coming.

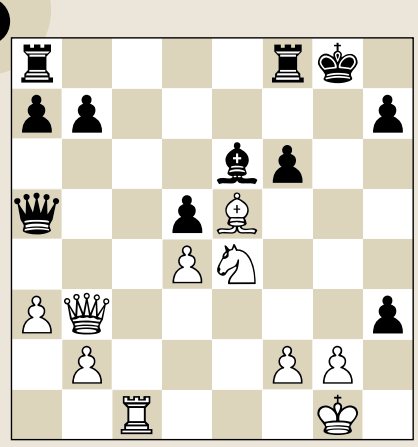
5



Reshevsky-Capablanca (var.)
Margate 1935

Kasparov reveals the fantastic computer discovery **1...♖b5!! 2.♖xb5** 2.♖xe7 ♖b2+; other captures drop the ♕+♔ to ...♕b2+. **2...♗b4 3.♔e2** The knight falls on 3.♖xb4 ♕xb4. **3...♕xc3 4.♔f3 ♕e1 5.♖dxd5 ♕d1+ 6.♔e4 ♕d3+=** Rybka cranks out this stunning resource in milliseconds!

6



Taimanov-Larsen
Vinkovci 1970

The ever-inventive Dane calculated the stunning defensive resource **1...fxe5! 2.♕g3+ ♗g4!!** This random-looking 'computer move' gives the king a winning haven on h8, refuting Taimanov's idea 2...♔f7? 3.♘g5+ (also 3.♘d6+ ♔e7 4.♕g7+!) 3...♔e7 4.♕xe5. **3.♕xg4+ ♔h8 4.♘g5 ♕d2 0-1**

Garry Kasparov

Kirsan's War on Chess

Observing Kirsan Ilyumzhinov's FIDE these days recalls the saying 'a pessimist is never disappointed.' We expect the worst and we get it, over and over again. But the saying can be taken in a more subtle way, as a warning to those who look for bad news and therefore always find it. Therefore we should endeavour to hope for the best and let the facts speak for themselves.

A good case was the June announcement by Ilyumzhinov that FIDE was forming a 'Foundation for Modernization of FIDE.' A title to inspire the imagination! There is no shortage of areas requiring overhaul in FIDE today. Perhaps they might start with mass resignations? Unfortunately not, but surely there must be some reaction to the catastrophe of the current world championship cycle, the spate of computer-assisted cheating, and the collapse of the London world championship sponsorship deal. The overall health of the chess world must also be considered, with big events in Linares, Sofia, and Mainz cancelled this year.

In Ilyumzhinov's announcement he acknowledged these problems and then reached the conclusion that chess was beyond hope, that the game must be destroyed once and for all. Unable and unwilling to develop the sport, classical chess will simply be discarded! Apparently it is just too much effort even to pretend to care about the game FIDE is supposed to represent to the world. Ilyumzhinov has been poisoning the roots of chess since he took office, a steady campaign to trivialize the game and its players. Time controls shortened, zero tolerance for late arrival, match play eliminated, host sites removed to obscurity, dozens of wild initiatives and millions of dollars promised without results, and, the crowning achievement, FIDE itself is now best known for having a president who enjoys the company of dictators, madmen, and aliens.

'Ilyumzhinov has been poisoning the roots of chess since he took office, a steady campaign to trivialize the game and its players.'

When there is a crisis with no obvious solution, a little experimentation is a good and necessary thing. You must, however, learn from your experiments. Sixteen years of Kirsan's failures and now we are told things must be radically changed? More member federation dues squandered on outlandish schemes? Naturally, the members of the modernization commission include Kirsan and just about every one of the crowd that created the current disaster. Here I must admit to pessimism. You don't put a convicted arsonist in charge of the fire department just because he knows a lot about fires.

Kirsan's line of defence, that 'the market has spoken' and classical chess cannot be financed, is nothing more than an admission of his failure to promote the game. Opera and ballet continue to grace our world despite not filling stadiums with hundreds of thousands like rock shows. La Scala did not shutter its doors when The Beatles came along. The game itself is not the problem, those who run it are. The few sponsors who do come forward soon refuse to have anything more to do with FIDE, or even with chess. It takes either supreme insolence or unrivalled delusion for Kirsan to say he is 'sick and tired of gathering money for champions' when it's the champions who gather money for him! The memories of past world championship glory are all that maintain waning public interest and yet Ilyumzhinov's FIDE is doing everything it can to erase every aspect of those traditions. If he is sick and tired of chess and chess players, let him retire to raise sheep.

The proposal to increase the frequency of the publication of the rating list to monthly is welcome and long overdue, as is the rating of rapid and blitz games. As I proposed in 2002, the rating list has the potential to be a highly marketable and globally unifying force in the chess world. My 'World Chess Rating' plan also included the idea of a unified list that combined every rate of play with weighted values. The goal must be to include every single chess player, and every game of every speed, on the planet. That means online play as well, though Ilyumzhinov's lack of understanding of the Internet is revealed by his statement that Linares was a failure because there weren't many spec-

tators in the playing hall. Even popular stadium sports earn far more from viewers at home than those who attend in person.

Ilyumzhinov's response to cheating is to speed up the game so much that the players won't have time to cheat, akin to the famous French cure for dandruff, the guillotine. Imagine how he would solve the concerns of other sports. Not enough scoring in football? Eliminate the goalkeepers! Rallies too long in tennis? Throw away the net! This is not exaggeration; Kirsan's director of special projects, David Kaplan, recently proposed chess without kings. This is both literal and a metaphor for how Ilyumzhinov sees a powerful world champion as a threat to his unchallenged authority. This is the same Kaplan of the mysterious 'CNC,' whose corroded website is an adequate symbol of its motivations. This was the group that FIDE handed all rights to games and events to without a vote of the General Assembly. As usual, the real business of Kirsan's FIDE takes place behind closed doors. As for the clear and present danger of cheating, it is not necessary to provide ultra-high-tech electronic countermeasures for every tournament. Simply make it clear in the rules of every FIDE-rated event that a single cheating violation will result in a lifetime ban.

The status quo is always dying, that is undeniable. My call to save classical chess is not an attempt to still the hands of time. Chess survived and thrived during the advent of radio and television and now it should be immensely strengthened by the power of the Internet. We must evolve, yes, but in Darwinian fashion we have to adapt positively. What Ilyumzhinov talks of as the weaknesses of chess are in fact its strengths. Chess is a touchstone of intellectual prowess throughout the world not because the game is fast and random or because there is no real champion. Chess is not a simple pastime. It will never be tennis, or poker. But it can and must still be chess, with all its complexity and beauty.

'Either those who value the traditions of our game band together to save it or we watch as Ilyumzhinov and his gang continue to destroy it.'

Instead of killing the patient, we need a program of growth and renaissance. The Karpov campaign's platform was a good beginning – eliminating federation dues, cultivating corporate sponsorship, rating system reform, enhancing the Candidates' matches and world championship, and investing a million dollars a year to grow our audience with direct development around the world. This is what was lost in Khanty-Mansiysk.

Kirsan's statements end with characteristic lunacy about chess clothes for the beach and beauty contests. By this point, the chess community cannot say any of this comes as a surprise. Kirsan fulfilling his campaign promises means the eventual destruction of the game of chess. The battle lines have never been more clearly drawn. Either those who value the traditions of our game band together to save it or we watch as Ilyumzhinov and his gang continue to destroy it. ■

NOT YET A SUBSCRIBER?

You are not yet a subscriber to New In Chess (eight issues a year)? Give it a try. Take out an Intro-subscription on the premier chess magazine in the world today, and receive five issues for a special price. An Intro-Subscription is only for new subscribers.

	EUROPE	U.K.	U.S.A & CANADA	REST OF THE WORLD
Intro Subscription (5 issues)	€ 37.45	£ 31.50	$ 48	€ 44
1 year (8 issues)	€ 74.90	£ 62.50	$ 96	€ 88
2 years (16 issues)	€ 143	£ 119	$ 189	€ 159
3 years (24 issues)	€ 213	£ 179	$ 276	€ 234

SUBSCRIBE DIRECTLY AT WWW.NEWINCHESS.COM

New In Chess, P.O. Box 1093, 1810 KB Alkmaar, The Netherlands. Phone: 0031-(0)72 512 7137, Fax 0031-(0)72 515 8234, www.newinchess.com, nic@newinchess.com

USA and Canada only: New In Chess, c/o Turpin Distribution, The Bleachery, 143 West Street, New Milford, CT 06776 USA, Phone: 1 800 785 4410, Fax: 1 860 350 0039, www.newinchess.com, TurpinNA@turpin-distribution.com.
Checks should be made payable to Turpin Distribution

Wesley So

CURRENT ELO: 2658
DATE OF BIRTH: October 9, 1993
PLACE OF BIRTH: Las Pinas, Philippines
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Manila, Philippines

What is your favourite colour?
Black! It is very cool!

What kind of food makes you happy?
Dutch and Italian! I'm tired of Filipino dishes!

And what drink?
Chilled orange juice and chocolate milk! They take away my weariness.

Who is your favourite author?
Garry Kasparov!

What was the best or most interesting book you ever read?
The Bible! When you read it, nothing else matters.

What is your all-time favourite movie?
The Matrix!

What is your favourite TV series?
Everybody Hates Chris!

Do you have a favourite actor?
Mr.Bean!

And a favourite actress?
Angelina Jolie!

What music do you like to listen to?
Pop, rock, rap! I like Linkin Park a lot.

Do you have a favourite painter?
Unfortunately not.

What was your best result ever?
World Cup 2009! (Where he knocked out both Vasily Ivanchuk and Gata Kamsky – ed.)

What was the best game you ever played?
My win against Ni Hua's Berlin at the 2008 Olympiad was nice.

Who is your favourite chess player?
Bobby Fischer, because I analysed his games and found they have great similarity with Houdini.

Is there a chess book that had a profound influence on you?
Attacking with 1.e4 by John Emms! That's how I got my Grandmaster title!

What was the most exciting chess game you ever saw?
Shirov-Dominguez, Wijk aan Zee 2010. I was watching and thought the players were gonna get a heart attack. Luckily, Dominguez offered a draw.

What are chess players particularly good at (except for chess)?
Going online and chatting!

Do they have typical shortcomings?
Maybe some think too much about chess in their life.

What is it that you appreciate most in a person?
Intelligence! And I think (besides me of course ☺) most chess players are intelligent!

What is it that you dislike in a person?
Arrogance and selfishness!

Do you have any superstitions?
Not really, but sometimes I wear the same clothes again when I win!

Who or what would you like to be if you weren't yourself?
Mr. Smith from *The Matrix*, Wolverine from *X-men*, Megatron from *Transformers*, and many others!

Which three people would you like to invite for dinner?
God, Satan, and an Archangel, to know what the world really is. (They're not really people, but I'm truly interested.)

Is there something you'd love to learn?
Sarcasm and faith!

What is your greatest fear?
Hell!

What would you save from your house if it were on fire?
I would try to put away the fire!

What is the stupidest rule in chess?
Draw offers! I don't think there are any sports where you can offer a truce in the middle of the game.

What will be the nationality of the 2050 chess world champion?
No idea! But probably not a Filipino ☺.

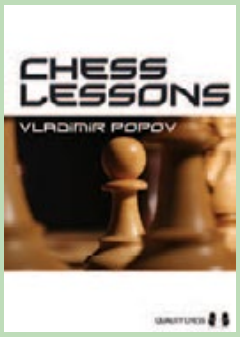
Is a knowledge of chess useful in everyday life?
Discipline, patience and well-timed quietness (practiced by sitting at the board for hours ☺) are useful qualities.

What is the best thing that was ever said about chess?
Chess helps you improve as an overall person! I think that would be very nice if it's true!

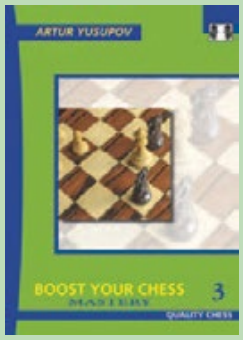
You can quote me on this forever - Quality Chess is the best chess publisher

GM Boris Gelfand, World Championship Challenger

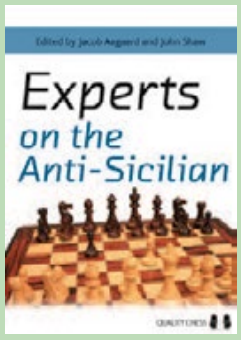
Quality Chess Summer Range 2011



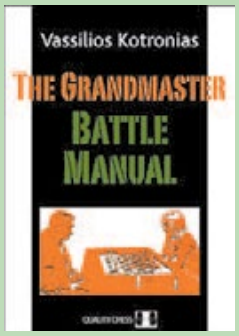
Vladimir Popov
Chess Lessons



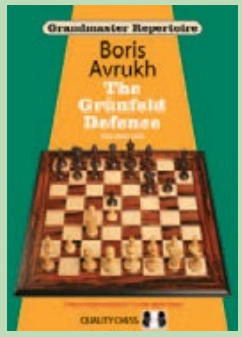
Artur Yusupov
Boost your Chess 3



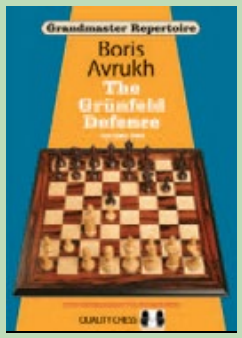
Aagaard/Shaw (ed.)
Experts on the Anti-Sicilian



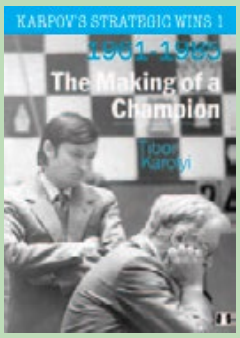
Vassilios Kotronias
The Grandmaster Battle Manual



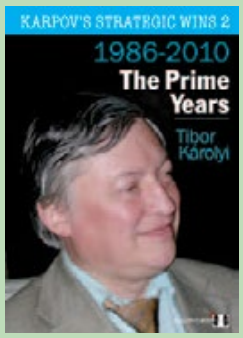
Boris Avrukh
The Grünfeld Defence 1



Boris Avrukh
The Grünfeld Defence 2



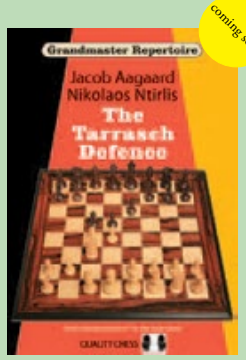
Tibor Karolyi
Karpov's Strategic Wins 1



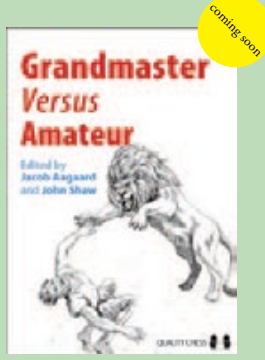
Tibor Karolyi
Karpov's Strategic Wins 2

Glenn Flear
Tactimania

Artur Yusupov
Chess Evolution 1



Aagaard/Ntirlis
The Tarrasch Defence



Aagaard/Shaw (ed.)
Grandmaster versus Amateur

Join us at www.qualitychess.co.uk for:

- **PDF excerpts**
- **PGN updates**
- **Forthcoming titles**
- **Lively blog discussions**
- **Sign-up for our monthly newsletter**

Our books are available from all good chess shops, including

NEW IN CHESS

www.newinchess.com

The Android Invasion has started ...

ICC
Internet Chess Club

www.chessclub.com/android